



Daily Report

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4 March Middle East and South Asia Review

LD041432 [Editorial Report]

Afghanistan

Foreign Minister "Abdul Wakil announced in Geneva that the Soviet withdrawal could be accomplished in a 9-month period, with 50 percent of the troops to leave in the first 3 months, TASS reported, adding that the minister stressed the Afghan side's "constructive flexibility." The minister also reiterated that the Kabul administration is prepared to discuss the issue of a coalition government "with all sides, or with individuals," the agency noted.

In Qom, an group of Afghan opposition parties issued a statement stressing that any acceptable settlement must include an "unconditional" Soviet withdrawal, coupled with the establishment of an Islamic government and reparations for war losses, IRNA reported.

The agency also reported that Yunis Khalis, head of the seven-party alliance headquartered in Pakistan, reiterated the alliance's denunciation of the indirect talks in Geneva and accused the Soviets of fortifying various positions instead of preparing to pull out.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

The 20th in a series of AH Husayn missile strikes on Tehran was launched 4 March, a statement carried on Baghdad radio announced. A "huge explosion" rocked the Iranian capital just as a group of Friday worshippers was marching on the Soviet Embassy to protest that country's support for Iraq, IRNA reported, adding that the Soviet missions in Tehran and Esfahan have been placed under police protection.

Responding to Iranian accusations that Iraq is firing Soviet-made missiles, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov declared in remarks carried by TASS that "the USSR has not supplied either of the sides with weapons for launching such strikes and in no way sanctioned them."

A statement broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio noted that a number of civilians were killed when an Iranian surface-to-surface missile hit a residential area in Baghdad on 3 March in the early evening. IRNA had previously announced that such a missile was fired at Iraqi Army headquarters. INA reported from Basra that Iranian shelling killed several citizens 3-4 March.

In northern Iraq, Kurdish fighters recently inflicted 200 casualties on Iraqi forces stationed at a base in Al-Sulaymaniyah, Tehran radio reported, citing a communique from the IRGC/Ramadan Headquarters. The IRGC also revealed that 100 Iraqi troops were killed or wounded when an "intelligence center" on the Iraq-Turkey highway in Kirkuk Province was destroyed, according to IRNA.

Israel

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir described his 4 March talks with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz as "very friendly, very useful, and promising," in remarks carried by IDF radio. The station noted that the U.S. secretary briefed Shamir on his recent conversations with Jordanian King Husayn in London.

According to Jerusalem radio, experts successfully dismantled a car bomb near the hotel where Secretary Shultz is staying. THE JERUSALEM POST reported that the Islamic Jihad organization called for a 3-day general strike to protest the mission of the "great evil envoy."

In remarks cited by IDF radio, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres promised that he will call for early elections if the Shultz mission fails. On the possibility of relations with the Soviet Union, the foreign minister "confirmed" that the USSR plans to "renew full diplomatic relations" as soon as an international conference is convened with Soviet participation.

Lebanon

British citizen Peter Coleridge, Oxford's Mideast coordinator, and a Lebanese colleague were kidnapped in Sidon, London PRESS ASSOCIATION reported 4 March, adding that a spokesman for the charity said that there are "conflicting reports" as to whether the two men are still being held.

Libya

In honor of the "Day of Freedom," Libyan leader Colonel Mu'amar al-Qadhafi ordered the release of 400 prisoners sentenced for crimes against the revolution, and he condemned Tripoli prison, the place of their detention. Tripoli television carried a ceremony held at the prison during which Al-Qadhafi stressed his role as "liberator" and urged those released to "confront the main enemy: imperialism and Zionism, exploitation and backwardness." Following his remarks, the Libyan leader was shown at the wheel of a bulldozer.

Sudan

Policy Statement—Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi declared that "in principle" Sudan will not participate in the conflict between Libya and Chad, and he reiterated his country's prohibition against foreign troops on its territory, according to a statement cited by SUNA.

In a related development, the governor of Darfur Region "categorically denied" that there are Libyan troops in the area, SUNA reported 4 March, and he added that "urgent measures" have been taken to increase security in the area.

Relief Convoy Escort—Government troops escorting a convoy of relief supplies upriver to Malakal killed at least 486 rebel attackers, including 127 on 25 February, National Unity radio announced. According to the report, only six soldiers lost their lives defending the convoy.

Maghreb Affairs

Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and his guest, Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, "comprehensively evaluated" bilateral cooperation and carried out "in-depth" consultations on issues of common concern, according to a "joint press release" broadcast by Algiers radio.

The two presidents also stressed the importance of efforts toward a united Arab Maghreb, and they reaffirmed their call for a "final and just solution" to the Western Sahara problem.

Islamic Affairs

Islamic Call Conference Held in Cairo 4 Mar
NC031104/Cairo/MENA in Arabic/0735 GMT
3 Mar 88

[[Text]] Cairo, 3 Mar (MENA)—Delegations from Islamic countries began arriving in Cairo today to attend the 11th Islamic Call session organized by Al-Azhar's Islamic Research Center. The conference is scheduled to start after the Friday prayers tomorrow and will be attended by President Husni Mubarak.

Malaysian Religious Affairs Minister Mohamed Yusuf Nowarah [title as received] arrived this morning heading his country's delegation. Marshal 'Abd al-Rahman Siwar al-Dhahab, chief secretary of the Islamic Call Organization, and Dr Hasan 'Abdallah al-Turabi, secretary general of the Sudanese Islamic Front, have also arrived.

Marshal Siwar al-Dhahab will submit a research paper on coordination among the Islamic Call offices in the Islamic countries.

Islamic Scholars Voice Support for Uprising
NC291659/Cairo/Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 29 Feb 88

[[Text]] The fourth seminar on Islamic thought, which concluded its work in Ismailia today, voiced its support for the uprising against the Israeli practices by the Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Participants in the seminar called on the presidents and kings of Arab countries to stand beside the Palestinian people.

Following 3 days of meetings in Ismailia, the participants issued a statement calling for an end to the Iraq-Iran war, stating that the Koran and the teachings of the prophet should constitute the basis of settling that conflict. The participants issued a recommendation that the seminar be enlarged to include scholars from other Arab and Islamic countries.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO To Join Arab Delegation to Security Council
LD031217/Kuwait/KUNA in English 1018 GMT
3 Mar 88

[[Text]] Kuwait, March 3 (KUNA)—Press reports here Thursday said that the Arab states have taken a decision aiming at including a PLO ranking official in the delegation which is to visit Security Council's permanent member states to grant further international support for the current Palestinians uprising.

Local daily AL-QABAS, quoting high ranking Arab sources, said that the Arab states have agreed on an "unannounced" decision to include head of the PLO Political Department Faruq Qaddumi, better known as 'Abu al-Luff', in the Arab

delegation which will visit the United States, the Soviet Union, France, Britain, and China, to discuss with their officials the developments in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The sources added that the Arab states are currently engaged in contacts with the capitals of the five big states to fix the dates for the visit.

The Arab League seven-men committee during its extraordinary meeting held in Tunisia on January 23-24 approved a measure to hold diplomatic contacts with the Western states including the member states of European Economic Community to secure international support for the Palestine revolution in the occupied lands.

The committee includes the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Algeria, Tunisia, and Qaddafi, in addition to Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi.

'Source' Says Fatah Delegation To Visit Syria
NC021821/Beirut/Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715
GMT 2 Mar 88

[[Text]] According to a pro-Syrian Palestinian source in Beirut, a Fatah Central Committee delegation will visit Damascus in the second half of March. This visit will be the first of its kind since Yasir Arafat was expelled from Damascus in June 1983. The source added that this visit, which is designed to bring about a reconciliation between the two sides, was discussed during a lengthy meeting held last Sunday between Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf and the Syrian charge d'affaires in Tunis.

PLO's Faruq Qaddumi Interviewed on 'Revolt'
AU021449/Vienna/NEUE AZ in German
2 Mar 88 p 5

[[Report on interview with PLO "Foreign Minister" Faruq Qaddumi by Georg Hoffmann-Ostenhof in Vienna: "The Israelis Will Withdraw From the Occupied Territories," date not given]]

[[Text]] "They will probably withdraw." The PLO foreign minister is convinced that a turning point has been reached in the Middle East. "It is a new phase in our struggle. The revolt in the occupied territories shows the determination of the people there to end the occupation. And they will succeed," Qaddumi states in an self-assured way. But is it possible to drive out an occupation army by throwing stones and demonstrating?

Yes, throwing stones is a new weapon. But the Palestinians in the occupied territories could adopt a new strategy at any time, Qaddumi declares. "They will invent new weapons." And, moreover, the situation must be seen as a whole: In South Lebanon people fight the Israeli Army with guns and grenades. "We use all means. My weapon is my tongue. And it is sharp," says the politician and diplomat.

Apparently, the PLO is watching what is happening in Israel more intensively than before. And the development there is very favorable for the Palestinians, he analyzes. On the one hand, in his opinion, the camp of those democratic and progressive forces in Israel which oppose the "extremist Israeli policy" in the occupied territories is increasing. Qaddumi also places his hope in the mass of the oriental Jews in the country (coming from Arab countries): "This revolt opens the eyes of the oriental Jews."

On the other hand, he sees the dominating parties in Israel in a crisis. He prophesies a "collapse of the Labor Party." And the right-wing Likud Bloc is also weakened. A polarization in Israeli society is beginning to show. "The two major parties will lose." On the one hand, the progressive forces, and on the other hand the extremists of the right will be strengthened. Above all, according to Qaddumi, more and more Israelis recognize that the conflict in the region does not come "from outside." They notice they are experiencing a "civil war."

The PLO politician is also optimistic on account of the general development which has shown a "decline of Israel" since the early eighties. Israel no longer has the same strategic importance as some years ago: "Israel is not South Africa. The majority of the budget comes from abroad. It does not possess gold or diamonds. And oil is no longer so important in the region." And a "radical solution" by Jerusalem which is feared by some people in Israel: a new massive expulsion of the Palestinians? Qaddumi considers this improbable. "The democratic forces in Israel will not accept this." Nor the international community. "It is time for wisdom. And some are already getting wise. Thank God."

Speaks at News Conference

AU022004 Vienna Domestic Service in German
1720 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Armin Wolf report on a news conference given by PLO "foreign policy spokesman" Faruq Qaddumi in Vienna on 2 March; with portions recorded]

[Text] The unrest in the Israeli-occupied territories—the Gaza Strip and the West Bank—will continue until a solution acceptable to the Palestinians is found. This is how the PLO's quasi-foreign minister, Faruq Qaddumi, sees the situation in this crisis region. And Qaddumi put it beyond all doubt today that the peace plan of the U.S. Secretary of State Shultz, presented in Jerusalem, Amman, Cairo, and Damascus this past week, is no such acceptable solution.

[Begin Qaddumi recording, in English, fading into German translation] Mr. Shultz is coming to the area with old ideas. These ideas were included in the Camp David and Reagan plans, both of which were rejected by our people. The Americans still ignore and deny the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. [end recording]

The United States continues to support Israel, Qaddumi went on to say. Shultz's proposal that the Palestinians elect, while still under Israeli occupation, their own administration authority for the occupied territories is not acceptable, but the PLO is ready to negotiate with Shultz. Qaddumi said today. A planned meeting of 15 Palestinians with Shultz in Jerusalem failed to materialize only last week. Radical Arabs reportedly even threatened to kill members of the delegation should they meet Shultz. But today Qaddumi appeared to be ready to negotiate.

[Begin Qaddumi recording, in English, fading into German translation] If Mr. Shultz wants to meet the PLO, he is welcome. If he does not, then let him go back to Washington. [end recording]

The United States and Israel have repeatedly called on the PLO to finally acknowledge the right of Israel to exist. PLO chief Arafat did just that, more or less and indirectly, in several interviews over the last few weeks. Asked about the actual position of the PLO on this issue, whether it accepts the state of Israel, Qaddumi reacted emotionally:

[Begin Qaddumi recording, in English, fading into German translation] How can we accept the aggression of the Israelis! How can we accept the practices of the Israelis! How can we accept what this state is doing! That is terrorism, state terrorism! We are being killed and tortured, arrested, and deported! Israel is the source of terror. We want to live in peace but they give us no chance, other than to fight, to use arms, to use all means. What we are doing is just self-defense and we will continue to defend ourselves. [end recording]

Qaddumi does not think much of the proposal made by Husni Mubarak, the Egyptian head of state, for a 6-month armistice between the two parties in the conflict. The unrest will go on until Israel gives in, he said. Asked about his idea of the ultimate solution to the problem, he said:

[Begin Qaddumi recording, in English, fading into German translation] I cannot predict the final result. But I can tell you what we need now: the termination of the occupation by Israel. The United Nations should control the territories for some time. That would create the basis and a favorable atmosphere for a successful international conference. [end recording]

U.S. Urged To Grant 'Full Recognition' of PLO JN032126 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1911 GMT 3 Mar 88

[A "reading of the political situation": "The Ball Is in Your Court and You Are the Parties Expected To Give Concessions"]

[Text] O brothers: A look at Call No 9 which was issued by the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising—the PLO's arm, another look at the U.S. stand following the complete failure of Shultz' tour, and a third look at the magnitude of the Israeli confusion on all levels make certain points clear in this open conflict. We can sum up these points as follows:

First, since the beginning of the comprehensive Palestinian offensive which embodies the unity of the land and the people—the offensive which has specific objectives and means of implementation and which has won the world's admiration, thanks to the depth of its unity, the solidity of its will, and the realism characterizing its political logic—since the beginning of this explosion, it has continued to grow and to develop its means and the forms of confrontation; it has been employing in unique harmony between the forces inside the occupied territories and those outside these territories. This offensive has also been directed by a unified decision that is immediately enforced by all walks of life and in all places of presence.

If the statements made by foes and enemies regarding the spontaneity of the offensive or the signs of despair or frustration which allegedly gave birth to the offensive as they said and tried to make others believe were acceptable at first, the very Palestinian offensive has swept aside all these bubbles and empty bets. It has become clear now to all that the Palestinian mass movement has created, *inter alia*, the decisionmaking body within it, which is an institution that reflects the unity of the people and land, and has also unequivocally clarified that the legitimate Palestinian leadership represented by the PLO and its historic leadership is the Palestinian decisionmaker and the body eligible for decisionmaking.

The attempts to form and manufacture an alternative to this historic body which witnessed an activation during a previous period looked miserable, dwarfed, and without chance of success.

Second, despite all the cover-ups, the open doors, and the attempts to pretend that mediation efforts are being exerted and that the role of the neutral judge is being played, the Palestinian uprising has revealed with great clarity to all forces and parties that the struggle is a direct one with the United States.

The U.S. Administration has left no method untried, no doors unknocked, no plan unproposed, and no weapon or repressive method unused with the aim of thwarting, striking at, containing, and crushing the increasingly bolstered and strengthened Palestinian morale and crushing the comprehensive offensive being launched by Palestinians everywhere to wrest their rights, their freedom, and their independence.

Third, perhaps what the uprising has most highlighted is the structural, political, organizational, and ideological shortcomings of the Israeli body politic, including the government in office and the opposition. It is no exaggeration to say the uprising has laid bare a huge vacuum in the Israeli structure which had appeared to be a monolith of violence and power. If only the United States would cease sponsorship and trusteeship over this structure, its weakness will grow all the more clear. It will then become obvious that the Israeli structure is not invincible, nor can it force its terms and dictates on the Arab world.

Fourth, we now witness many retreats in the region. We now see political postures by key parties being eroded and melted by the uprising. We now see many foes who have come to

embrace the rationale, language, and political literature of the uprising. We now see that those who were betting on certain roles have vanished from the political arena and those who had wagered on being bequeathed the leadership and the legitimacy of the Palestinians have melted. Grandstanders, skeptics, and flatterers have vanished without a trace.

In effect, only the Palestinian attack is now on the stage. Some parties have failed, others have become perplexed, and still others have met with frustration. Only the Palestinians, their leadership, and their program and their national inalienable rights are still there. What then?

According to news reports, Shultz will be in Cairo after the NATO meeting. George was said to have proposed a meeting with the PLO in Cairo. Whatever the accuracy of the report, Washington has no other option. Washington must grant full recognition to the PLO, which stresses Palestinian self-determination, repatriation, and the right to an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. This is the Palestinian agenda which Washington has no choice but to recognize. Whether Washington gets to this point now or tomorrow, it remains the only solution, the only option. The Palestinian onslaught is still in its infancy. It will persist, grow stronger, and develop further. The Palestinian onslaught will redraw the entire political map. It will emerge triumphant and the adversaries losers.

The uprising will triumph. Long live the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of our great Palestinian people. We will triumph.

Al-Quds Radio on Jamming in Ramallah, Al-Birah
JN031557 (Clandestine) Al-Quds (Palestinian Arab
Radio) 1529 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Brother strugglers: Al-Quds, the Palestinian Arab radio on the path of liberating the land and man, has learned from our kinfolk in Ramallah and Al-Birah that listening to Al-Quds radio is not possible in the two heroic cities as a result of enemy jamming of the station with an antenna belonging to the old radio station which can be seen from a distance.

Brother strugglers, Al-Quds radio appeals to all our kinfolk in the areas close to Ramallah and Al-Birah to record our broadcasts and to supply the recordings to the kinfolk in Ramallah and Al-Birah, particularly recordings of statements and instructions issued by the uprising leaders.

Al-Quds radio, the Palestinian Arab radio on the path of liberating the land and man, promises our people that our engineers are working hard to overcome the enemy's jamming of your radio. Al-Quds radio, the Palestinian Arab radio on the path of liberating the land and man. Victory is near. God is with us. Together on the path of liberating the land and man.

We transmit on the following frequencies: On Fwi on 105.4 and 96.7 MHz; on a main mediumwave on 702 kHz; and on reserve mediumwaves on 630 and 729 kHz.

Al-Quds, the Palestinian Arab radio on the path of liberating the land and man. Test transmission.

South Asian Regional Affairs

Talks on Afghanistan Issue Continue in Geneva

Noorani Briefs Media on Stand

IK031557 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani has said that Pakistan is striving for a comprehensive settlement of the Afghanistan issue instead of a partial one, including the formation of a transitional government.

He was talking to newsmen after 2-hour talks with the UN representative, Diego Cordovez, in Geneva this afternoon. The UN envoy also held separate talks with the Kabul regime's representative.

The minister of state said we firmly believe that more than 5 million Afghan refugees spread throughout the world will not be willing to return to their homes if an agreement is concluded without the creation of an atmosphere of peace and stability in Afghanistan. Out of this total, more than 3 million refugees reside in Pakistan. He said Pakistan is maintaining the same stand it has pursued so far. Radio Pakistan's special correspondent Saffar Ahamd reports that Diego Cordovez was also present when Zain Noorani was talking to the newsmen.

When asked about when the proposed transitional government would be formed and when it would be established in Kabul, the Pakistani minister of state said that depends on when we succeed in making the parties concerned agree on it. He said there is a complete consensus between the UN representative and us that if a broader transitional government is formed in Afghanistan, it should be formed by the Afghans themselves.

The talks will be resumed tomorrow. Later, the Pakistani minister of state will leave Geneva for Islamabad and will attend a meeting with major political leaders convened by the prime minister on Saturday.

Wakil Agrees to Withdrawal

AU031637 Paris AFP in English 1634 GMT
3 Mar 88

[Text] Geneva, March 3 (AFP)—Afghanistan has agreed to a Soviet troop withdrawal spread over nine months, with 50 per cent of the forces to be pulled out in the first three months, Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil said here Thursday.

The three-month proviso was called for by Pakistan.

The move came on the second day of indirect talks between the two countries, mediated by special United Nations envoy Diego Cordovez.

Soviet Cooperation Sought

IK040915 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] The proximity talks on Afghanistan resume in Geneva today. After today's talks, Zain Noorani, the minister of state for foreign affairs and leader of the Pakistani delegation, is expected to return home for consultations with the government of Pakistan.

At yesterday's talks, the Soviet-Kabul authorities reportedly accepted the demand for completing the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan within 9 months, with 50 percent of the troops leaving the country within the first 3 months.

In a dispatch from Geneva, Radio Pakistan's special correspondent, Saffar Ahamd, says that the Pakistani delegation will continue its efforts to secure the cooperation of the Soviet Government in establishing a broader transitional government in Afghanistan, which may ensure representation of all sections of the Afghan people.

At yesterday's indirect talks, the Pakistani delegation pointed to the dangers which may emerge if a settlement is reached without the formation of a transitional government in Afghanistan.

In view of the fact that the Kabul regime controls only 20 percent of the territory of Afghanistan, it is crystal clear that it will not be able to discharge its responsibilities under the Geneva agreement, leading to the continuation of the war in Afghanistan and preventing the creation of conditions for the return of the Afghan refugees to their homes in peace and safety.

During the talks, the Pakistani delegation is reported to have pointed out that even in the opinion of the Soviet Government, the Najibullah regime is not in a position to speak on behalf of the Afghan people and, hence, it cannot be expected that it will be able to effectively administer and maintain peace and order in Afghanistan.

2d Round of Talks Begins

LD040719 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0505 GMT
4 Mar 88

[Text] Kabul, March 3, BAKHTAR—The next round of talks between the Republic of Afghanistan and Pakistan, through the mediation of special envoy of UN secretary general, Diego Cordovez, is continuing in Geneva, reports Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Noorani Reports No Changes

IK041124 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] Talks were resumed between the UN envoy on Afghanistan, Mr Diego Cordovez, and the Pakistani delegation in Geneva today.

Before the start of the talks, the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zam Noorani, told waiting newsmen, in reply to a question, that nothing has changed. Afghanistan is there and the importance of peace and security for refugees, who would return, is there.

Mr Zam Noorani will later leave for Islamabad for the conference called by the prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, with leaders of major political parties tomorrow [5 March].

Algeria

Foreign Minister Receives Iran's Larjani

LD081305 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Dr Ahmed Taleh Ibrahim, member of the Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs, today received Mohammad Javad Larjani, Iranian deputy foreign minister in charge of economic and international affairs. During the meeting, which was attended by the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Algeria and the heads of departments at the Foreign Ministry, the two sides discussed the Iraq-Iran conflict and prospects of finding a peaceful and honorable solution to this conflict.

It is worth recalling that yesterday Larjani handed President Chadli Bendjedid a message from his Iranian counterpart, Ali Khamene'i.

Tunisian President Departs, Makes Statement

LD082142 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
1830 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Following a 24-hour friendly working visit, Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali left Algiers at approximately 1600 today.

Algeria's guest was seen off by President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and secretary general of the party, who was flanked by members of the Political Bureau, members of the government, and senior officials from the party and state. The farewell ceremony was also attended by members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Algeria.

At the airport VIP lounge, the Tunisian president made the following statement:

[Begin Ben Ali recording] First of all, I would like to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to my brother, His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid, and to all the brotherly officials and militants of the FLN and the Algerian Government, as well as to the brotherly Algerian people for the hospitality and warm welcome accorded to me and the delegation accompanying me.

This is only natural in that we have come to our country and have stayed among our brothers. Once again our visit has proved that deep brotherly relations link our two brotherly peoples. I cannot let the occasion pass without noting the frankness, realism, love, and understanding that characterized our meetings, as well as the confidence in the future of building the Greater Maghreb on firm and sound foundations. Thank you. [end recording]

Joint Press Release Issued

LD040024 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
2200 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] The friendly working visit which President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali paid to Algiers was crowned today by a joint press release which says, in particular:

In accordance with the traditionally firm and solidly established practice between Algeria and Tunisia, and in order to give more in-depth meaning to bilateral relations, Presidents Chadli Bendjedid and Zine El Abidine Ben Ali comprehensively evaluated the achievements of Algerian-Tunisian cooperation, which generate great satisfaction. The two presidents also evaluated efforts underway to build the Arab Maghreb in the best possible conditions. The two presidents also consulted in-depth regarding other local and international matters of common interest.

When dealing with the process of developing the Arab Maghreb, the two presidents pointed out the important historical function which characterizes the treaty of fraternity and concord with the aim of epitomizing an era of understanding and cohesion in the region. In this context, the two presidents reiterated their firm belief in the inevitability of building the Greater Arab Maghreb in accordance with the aspirations of the region's peoples and as a fundamental prerequisite for development and progress to the benefit of the Maghreb countries.

Proceeding from their awareness that the conflict in the Western Sahara is draining energies which should have instead been employed in order to serve Maghreb unity, as well as contribute to its total achievement, the two presidents reiterated their adherence to a just and final solution to such a conflict in accordance with international unanimity. When examining the Middle East crisis, the two presidents hailed the heroic assistance of the Palestinian people in the occupied land and called for the Arab nation to fulfill the responsibilities needed for effective and increasing solidarity with the historic uprising of the Palestinian people.

They called on the Arab nation to intensify its joint action aimed at liberating the occupied Arab territories and meeting the Palestinian people's national rights totally and comprehensively by the establishment of a Palestinian state. Given this task, the two presidents thought that an emergency Arab summit in these circumstances might give the necessary momentum to the Palestinian popular uprising.

When expressing their concern with regard to the continued Iraq-Iran conflict, as well as the possibility of its expansion and intensification, the two presidents have again sent a brotherly urgent call to end such a conflict between brethren and to find a peaceful and honorable solution to all differences between Iraq and Iran.

Following an extensive examination of the political and economic situation on the African Continent, Presidents Chadli Bendjedid and Zine El Abidine Ben Ali strongly condemned apartheid and reiterated their support for liberation movements in southern Africa as well as the Frontline

States in their struggle to uproot apartheid and see Namibia achieve genuine independence, together with a guarantee for the sovereignty, stability, and territorial integrity of the region's countries.

The two presidents examined current international relations with their East-West and North-South dimensions and expressed their satisfaction with the dialogue underway within the framework of East-West relations. Moreover, they expressed the hope that the agreements, which have stemmed from such a dialogue, will be in the interest of an equal peace for all people.

Egypt

Mubarak Asked by Tunisia To Return Libyan MiG's
JN040705 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
0500 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] Informed sources in Tunis said that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak agreed to a personal request from Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to return the four Libyan MiG-23 aircraft, which landed in Egypt on 1 March, to Libya.

JANA reported yesterday that the four Libyan aircraft, which had made a forced landing in Egypt because of weather conditions, are on their way back to Libya. Tunisian sources said President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali asked President Husni Mubarak to return the aircraft to Libya following a direct request from Libyan leader Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi.

No Political Asylum Requested by 'Abd al-Nasir
LD031522 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1417 GMT
3 Mar 88

['Pool' item]

[Text] Belgrade, March 3 (TANJUG)—Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir, son to Egypt's one-time President 'Abd al-Nasir, has not been given political asylum in Yugoslavia, Aleksander Stanic, press spokesman for Yugoslavia's Federal Secretariat for Foreign Affairs, told his press conference here today.

Khalid al-Nasir has visited Yugoslavia as a tourist several times now, but has neither sought any contact with the Yugoslav authorities nor they have had any reason for looking for him, Ambassador Stanic said. "Simply, he could behave like many other foreign tourists in our country," Stanic added.

To date, Yugoslavia has not received any request for handing Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir over, Stanic said. "There have been no other motives for us to look into this matter," he added.

Egypt's public prosecutor has accused Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir of his allegedly being involved in terrorism and asked for death sentence to be pronounced on him.

'Abd al-Nasir Cites 'Defamation Campaign'
JN031701 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English
2 Mar 88 p 3

[Text] The son of late Egyptian President Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir was quoted yesterday as accusing the United States and Israel of trying to "settle old accounts" with his father by defaming him and his brothers.

Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir, in an interview from Belgrade by a Kuwaiti newspaper described as the first since criminal charges were leveled against him by Cairo, affirmed that he was going to return to Egypt to face trial even though he faced possible execution.

"I do not fear death for the quest of my homeland and my country," the 38-year-old man said in the published interview. "But I reject death in response to the desire of enemies or as a surrender to their decisions."

Khalid is among 20 men charged in connection with four shootings between 1984 and 1987 that killed two Israelis and wounded six others as well as two Americans.

The defendants were said to have been grouped in a clandestine organisation called Egypt's Revolution. The indictment demands the death penalty for 11 defendants, including the young 'Abd al-Nasir, and prison terms up to life for the rest.

Egypt has said it is attempting to have him extradited to stand trial as one of three founders of Egypt's Revolution and its main financial backer. The group is committed to ending Israel's presence in Egypt and Cairo's commitment to peace agreements signed with Israel.

The paper said that Algeria has offered political refuge to 'Abd al-Nasir but he turned down the offer, saying "my father never imagined being as such in any country and preferred to die while fighting his enemies rather than accept that."

"Therefore I am determined to return to Cairo because death in Cairo is much better than living elsewhere," he added.

The suspect's brother-in-law, Ashraf Marwan, told the Cairo magazine AL-MUSAWWAR in an interview last month that 'Abd al-Nasir sought asylum first in Algeria, then in Iraq, but his requests were ignored.

'Abd al-Nasir referred to what he called "a defamation campaign" against him and his two younger brothers in the Egyptian press and said this was "not separate from the hostile American and Israeli blueprint which has been employed over the past 36 years with the aim of obliterating 'Abd al-Nasir's legendary place in the hearts of the Arab masses."

"The defamation campaign being launched against me and my brothers is but an American and Israeli attempt to settle old accounts," he said.

He added: "Those who failed to face President 'Abd al-Nasir for 18 years of his rule and to eradicate his name from the conscience of the Egyptian masses for 18 years after his death, now return to launch their campaigns."

WAKH Cites Al-Baz on New U.S. Initiative
JN021755 Manama WAKH in English 1635 GMT
2 Mar 88

[Text] Doha, March 2 (GNA)—First Undersecretary at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry 'Usamah al-Baz has said that the recent Middle East trip of the American Secretary of State George Shultz was meant to sound out the views of the leaders of the parties concerned to the Middle East conflict towards a peaceful settlement. This will be followed by a fresh American initiative to revive peace efforts in the region, he said.

At a news conference today Al-Baz said that the American initiative will be based on the United Nations Resolution 242, aimed at settling all aspects of the Palestinian problem and at regaining for the Palestinian people their rights, [words indistinct] concept.

The American initiative, Al-Baz added, calls upon the concerned parties to accept a change in the situation in the Israeli-occupied territories into a transitional phase and a permanent one, and the formation of a government to be headed by Israeli officials with the participation of mayors of Arab towns in the occupied territories.

Al-Baz said that Egypt and Jordan opposed the idea of the transitional government, believing that during a transitional period the Palestinians would have been familiarized to coexistence with such government.

Bulgarian Trade Union Delegation Arrives 3 Mar
NC031352 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT
3 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 3 Mar (MENA)—Ivan Ivanov Simov, chairman of the Bulgarian Chemical Industry Workers Union, arrived in Cairo early this morning, leading a delegation on the first visit to Egypt by a Bulgarian trade union delegation since 1975.

During the 1-week visit, the delegation will hold talks with officials of the General Union of Oil Workers led by Anwar 'Ashmawi, chairman of the union and deputy chairman of the Egyptian General Federation of Trade Unions. The talks will deal with ways to bolster relations and increase cooperation and coordination in fields of common interest. [passage omitted]

Libya

Al-Qadhafi Address People's Congress 2 Mar
LD021621 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
1038 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Speech by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi at the General People's Congress in Ra's al-Unuf marking 11th anniversary of the establishment of the jamahiriyyah—live]

[Text] In the name of God, we celebrate today not only the convening of an ordinary session of the General People's Congress, but also the anniversary of the declaration

of the people's authority and the setting up of the Jamahiriyyah. [applause] We salute the delegations from Arab and the foreign countries. We also salute the secretaries of pan-Arab conferences throughout the Jamahiriyyah, the secretaries of international conferences throughout the Jamahiriyyah, and the secretaries of people's congresses abroad.

Also attending today, in their capacity as members of the General People's Congress and to mark the anniversary of the establishment of the people's authority, are the secretaries of those pan-Arab conferences which are being held abroad and on the land of the Jamahiriyyah.

This commemoration is held today in the city of Ra's al-Unuf, on the banks of the Gulf of Sidra. This location for the celebration, as well as the attending foreign delegations, representatives of foreign countries, and the secretaries of the people's congresses, the pan-Arab and international conferences was intentional. We wanted to affirm our irrevocable determination to stand at the Gulf of Sidra and declare our unceasing preparation to die for it [applause and chants], and to renew again the line of death which lies at 32.5 degrees, a line once defined in the sea by a piece of water but now drawn in blood. [applause]

The day after we defined the line of death, that is, the entrance to the Gulf of Sidra, the Americans tried to cross that line. However, they died when they crossed it, and in so doing learned that the line of death was real and not just words. [applause] In 1986 we marked and colored the Gulf of Sidra with the blood from scores of martyrs. We fulfilled the promise we made when we said that we were prepared to die for this Gulf and make it red.

The United States, the aggressive power, now knows that the line of 32.5 degrees is the line of death: its aircraft and its soldiers have both been destroyed and died there. The United States knows that those behind the Gulf are prepared to turn it into a red gulf, yet it is the blood of martyrs and the enemies who attempted aggression that has colored it.

We stand today on the banks of the Gulf of Sidra to affirm our unyielding determination to defend our right to be there, to affirm that it is an indivisible part of Libyan Arab territory, and to affirm that the United States, regardless of its might, cannot prevent us from dying for it. Today the entire world and the aggressive and unlawful powers know that the air raids, the failed economic and political boycott attempts, the venomous and feverish propaganda, and all kinds of psychological and material pressures have failed and been destroyed on hard rock. They know they are facing a stubborn adversary who cannot be softened by these pressures, and who will not retreat before such threats.

Therefore, those tyrants must check their calculations. They must understand that barbarism, intimidation, power, official terrorism, the threats from fleets, and the attempts at boycotts have all ended in failure. Those things can bring them no results, and will only increase our stubbornness and determination to resist.

The U.S. has no alternative but to back off and admit that it has tried a test operation with the aim of subjecting the area and containing it. Though they tried to frighten us and force us to retreat and deviate like the others, the United States now knows that the challenges have increased our determination and resistance.

Whenever we have faced this aggressive force, people in all parts of the world rallied around us because we faced their mortal enemy, the common enemy of all who struggle for freedom. Imperialism is the enemy of all who want to live in peace, safety, and freedom. Consequently, when we defend in the Gulf of Sidra, we defend the cause of freedom. We affirmed this cause in the declaration of the people's authority in 1979 when the *Jamahiriyah* was set up. [applause]

The United States has no alternative but to reconsider its estimations and change its mind on the Gulf of Sidra. We want to affirm, while facing the challenge on the shores of the Gulf of Sidra, that we are determined to resist the imperialist presence not only in the Gulf but on any the Arab land. We are determined to turn all the Arab land into another Lebanon. The reason why I say Lebanon is because imperialism burned its fingers there. The Americans went there with arrogance, but left as stiff corpses and losers.

Now, with all its power, the United States cannot stretch its fingers into Lebanon again because it will meet with popular resistance led by Lebanese nationals and brave Palestinians. The resistance the United States faced in Lebanon did not come from the government or a regular army; it came from the people.

No one asked for permission to fight in Lebanon, and when young people decided to die in order to kill hundreds of Americans and Frenchmen, nobody could prevent them. They were martyred, but just one of them killed hundreds of American and French Marines. This is a decision for death which no one can prevent you from making. We have made the decision to die in the Gulf of Sidra and other places because we defend what is right and lawful. Our nation has the right to unity, liberty and peace.

As long as this is the principle that we defend, it is not possible for us to change our minds, to bargain, to be submissive, or to hesitate. It is not possible for us to renounce this principle and this struggle, because to do so would mean the renunciation of our existence, our life, and our right to exist on earth.

No matter how many treacherous conferences are held—such as the Amman conference, no matter how much the Palestinians' revolution of stones is conspired against—as seen in the hysterical attempts being made by the United States and by U.S. agents in the region, and no matter how many times this nation is violated and even humiliated, our objective remains clear: the liberation and unification of this nation so that it may lift its head among the other nations with pride. It has the right to do so, and we urge it to sacrifice its life for this cause until it has been obtained. Our fight will gain (momentum), phase after phase, and it will confirm its worthiness with victory, phase after phase.

We should not despair, dear brothers. I know that there are frustrations, that there is a U.S.-Zionist-Western conspiracy, and also weakness, submission, and servility. But who are the subservient, the treacherous, and the servile? They are the scum, the agents, and the cowards who have not been brought in by the revolution nor by the masses. Have you ever seen a popular leader of the Lebanese nationalist movement or of the Palestinian resistance, brought in by the revolution and the masses, capitulate or retreat? What we hear is that he is fighting, or has been killed or martyred.

When the hamlets and the villages were shelled by the "New Jersey", the biggest ship in the world, none of those who carried a rifle retreated; neither did any of the revolutionary leaders. If there was a president, king, or ruler who did retreat or desert, it is because this is the way they are personally. This has nothing to do with the masses, nor has it anything to do with those who are responsible only for themselves.

Please make no mistake: The retreats, the treasons, the capitulation, the circumambulation of the Black House in the United States and the kissing of the Americans' hands, these things are not done by the Arab nation or by the Arab people. Nor are they done by the Palestinian resistance, the revolutionaries of the stones, the Lebanese nationalist movement, or the Al-Fatah revolution. Who, then, can do these things?

They are done by the creatures of the U.S. intelligence service, people who carry the labels: Made in the USA, Made in France. These people are falling one after the other because they have not been supported by the masses or by the revolution. Those who are supported by the masses and by the revolution do not fall because the masses and the revolution are the truth, and anything else is sham.

The signs of hope, the generation of anger which we announced, have started showing in Palestine. There are U.S. conspiracies and meetings, and their agents are plotting against Palestine. While it is one thing for these agents to make statements and to yell, it is another thing for the new generation, to wear masks, fight with stones, and offer martyrs every day. This is the revolution, the masses, the Arab nation; this is its conscience, this is its reality. [applause]

We should never despair because those who despair are superficial people. They believe that the truth is what is carried by the official radio stations and by government newspapers; they believe the statements made by the politicians. However, truth cannot be found in newspapers nor can it be heard on the radio. Those who planned the revolution of the stones did not announce in the newspapers that they would launch their revolution on a specific date. Their names only become known when one of them is martyred, then his name announced. We do not hear that on the radio of a station called "The Generation of Anger in Palestine", or that they have carried out such and such acts, or that they have a news bulletin. Never!

The dominant fact is that they have no radio station, no newspapers, and no government. Here is an Arab citizen, who is right and who possesses the land, fighting with a rifle.

The United States and Zionism are this citizen's enemies. As for the ruler [of Lebanon], some day he will pack his bag and leave for the United States or go to the Israelis as Al-Sadat did. But the citizen, the owner of the house, the owner of the livestock, the owner of the tree, the owner of the farm, and the owner of the school—if he has a school—will remain. As for the rulers, even their children do not study with ours. They study in Europe. They learn foreign languages and study in Europe. Even their wives go abroad when things become difficult, and they prepare to join them.

Therefore, their presence is only temporary. The presence of those who plot and who are submissive is only temporary, because they are not of us. We are the masses, we are the people, we are those to whom land belongs. We are those whose children study at our schools. We are those who are treated at our hospitals. We are those who have livestock on which we subsist, and houses built from mud, animal hair, or bricks.

Consequently, the ordinary fighter with a rifle and he who has stones in his hands has not and will not surrender. Hope can be drawn from this, and from our determination to continue resisting until this nation is liberated and united, until U.S. and Zionist colonialism are defeated despite everything they do and however much they resist us. It is not a question of days, months, or years. This is a short-sighted view.

While they evicted us from Spain after 800 years, we evicted the Crusaders from Palestine after 80 years. The issue is one of the struggle of generations. Do not believe that the United States will always have its present power. This is an imperialist, exploitative power that lives by the blood of others, by looting peoples' wealth, and by wars. Consequently, the source of its power is threatened. People do not voluntarily give their blood for Dracula to suck. People do not plunder their own wealth to strengthen imperialist and Zionist powers.

The wars and progress envisioned by imperialism and the owners of arms factories will not continue. Peace may triumph, conscience may triumph, and markets might close to the imperialists' goods. Consequently, the day will come when the U.S. empire will inevitably age, and this has already started. You know that the United States has difficulty in financing its worldwide bases. It wants to force agent governments to meet the cost of U.S. military bases, otherwise the United States will not be able to finance its military presence outside its own territory.

This is good news. The weakening process has started. The United States is not going up; it has started going down. It is in a state of deterioration, decline, and deficiency. In the coming years it will become unable to finance its military bases abroad; consequently, it will be forced to withdraw its bases.

This is not because the United States has changed its hostile intentions, but because this is the law of nature. It will not continue to finance its bases abroad. Currently 60 percent of its maritime fleet is nonoperational. All that is sailing—which we would consider to be gigantic fleet—represents

only 40 percent of the United States' maritime force. The United States is unable to repair 60 percent of its maritime force—both civilian and military.

In addition, there are also time bombs inside the United States: There is the nation of the black people; the nation of the Red Indians; there are other oppressed groups—Arabs, Asians, Africans, and other groups; even oppressed Europeans can be found inside its borders. These groups will triumph. The United States is trying to push the conflict away by exporting it abroad, by exporting it to the Gulf of Sidra, to Nicaragua, to Panama, to Angola, to Afghanistan. It wants to turn a blind eye to the real danger.

Zionism will not continue to quarrel forever in Palestine, as it is doing these days. That society carries within it the seeds of its annihilation. The Israelis will not be able to live by fear in Palestine, despite their patience and perseverance, and in spite of U.S. support. They will not, even it takes generations, be able to continue to live in this hell, because they have usurped a people's land. This people is still present; it is fighting from inside and outside. The Israelis do not feel safe when they are on aircraft, on a bus, in their homes, at school, in the street, at home or abroad. Whenever an Israeli picks up an item he thinks that it could be a bomb planted by the fedayeen.

Why? Because he knows that he lives on a land that is not his. He takes a bus that runs through streets that are Palestinian, not his. He is an Englishman, a German, a Russian, an Iranian, or even an Arab Jew; he knows that his country is not Palestine. It was an illusion that brought him to Palestine. Therefore, he expects the Palestinians to leave the bus to him, to leave the sewage, to leave the trees, and let him enjoy the weather, the sea, and the land. Because he knows that this region does not belong to him, he is an aggressor.

This is a typical picture of an aggressor. He expects to be attacked from anywhere by the person who has a right to be there. The Israelis cannot live in such condition forever. We will continue to put pressure on them, psychologically and materially, by inciting the Palestinian revolution inside and outside. This is our aim, our determination, and our message. We will not give up. [applause]

This is not an analysis or history. We leave history to itself and to time. There is a real determination behind it, because we overcame fear. They killed our sons. The superpower raided us. They used NATO, and attacked a house, a street, and children. They buried us alive in Palestine. They have run over us with tanks in the streets of southern Lebanon—families in cars that were run over by Israeli tanks. It became obvious to us that, for the United States, right stands for deception and deception means right. There is no common understanding between us and the United States. It has one outlook, and we have another. It deprives us of our rights, while we have full freedom. We have no common language with the United States.

What the Israelis are doing is considered by the United States to be a legitimate defense, yet what we are doing, as far as the United States is concerned, is viewed as terrorism. What Hitler did is portrayed as racism, while what the

Israelis are now doing is considered legitimate. These days, Hitler is innocent compared with the crimes of the Israelis in Palestine. Hitler did not bury anybody alive, but the Israelis have buried Palestinians alive.

As from now, the world will join with us in this campaign to revise the post-World War II culture, because this culture was made by the United States and Zionism to cover up their true reality. They are the real criminals. They are the ones who are accused of racism.

Yes, the Americans and the Israelis, and with them the West, are staging a racist war against the Arabs. This is a racist and a religious war, and it is Zionism and imperialism which have led to the alliance between Judaism and Christianity, and which have exploited Judaism and Christianity.

There is no enmity between Islam and Christianity or between Islam and Judaism. But imperialism—which dominates the Christian world, and Zionism—which has controlled the Jews, has forced Judaism and Christianity to ally themselves under the aegis of imperialism and Zionism against the Arabs, against Islam, and against the Christian Arab. As long as he is an Arab, even if he is a Christian, the Christians who follow imperialism will be against him. Thus this war is a racist war.

Consequently, we are determined to disclose the new reality. We vindicate Hitler in view of the crimes of the Israelis and the silence of the Americans about these crimes. The United States keeps silent; the United States does not say about the Israelis what it says about the Nazis because its interest now is for Zionism to be a base for destroying the Arabs. It is not in the interest of the United States for Hitler to remain. Therefore, Hitler is a criminal and the Israelis are innocent.

However, we are not interested in the analyses of the United States and what it claims about the defense of human rights. The United States is the enemy of man and the killer of mankind. We do not say that we declare enmity to the United States in a stubborn and irrevocable way. When it recognizes our right to existence, when it respects us and our land, and asks for cooperation with us as equals, then we will stretch out our hand.

We do not despise the Americans because they are Americans. We hate the imperialist policy which denies us the right to Palestine, to the Gulf of Sidra, and to our homes. Consequently, we, the ones who make the future, who lead the masses, never rely on what is said by the U.S. delegate, the U.S. President, the U.S. minister, or the Israeli minister. We do not even know how the Israeli ministry is formed.

It is a Zionist camp in Palestine, and it may change a hundred times and a hundred parties may rule everyday; this does not concern us. I personally do not know the names of the Israeli parties, the names of the Israeli rulers, and if they are ruled by a coalition or a party. All of them are a Zionist camp occupying Arab Palestinian land and we will fight them. That is final word. [applause]

It is not important who rules the U.S. or what party rules it—that does not concern me.

If the United States changes its policy toward us, respects us, and becomes neutral between us and the Israelis, this will be welcome [words indistinct] if it continues its policy against us. If you revert, we will revert. [quotation from the Koran] We are determined; we are willful; and we will resist. We have made a decision. We have decided not to fear, and we will die standing. Can the United States prevent us? No, it cannot. [applause] That is the final word. We die every day. Death comes with God's will. We die with our will, and we die standing and fearless. [chanting of slogans]

Consequently, we are determined to light the fire of revolution in the Arab homeland so that America's feet get burned. We must oppose the U.S. presence on Arab soil because it is a pro-Zionist presence and because it is against our existence. Therefore, we do not welcome the U.S. presence, nor do we feel reassured about it no matter how many gifts it offers us. These gifts are poison wrapped in honey.

We the masses, the generation of anger, and the revolutionaries will oppose the United States from the Atlantic to the Gulf. We will even oppose it in Africa, and in the other continents with our alliance with the revolutionary forces and the fighting popular front that has begun to take shape under the leadership of the international center throughout the world. From this the United States will know that this round has ended with setbacks and defeats, from Vietnam to the Gulf of Sidra and Panama.

Dear brothers, the battle has now moved from Vietnam to Panama. Consider that the United States fought in Vietnam, across continents and oceans, as far as possible from its own borders, but that today it is fighting on its borders, in Panama. Today, the Panamanian people are fighting the United States on its borders; Nicaragua is on the borders of the United States. [applause]

Yes, look at the map of the conflict, which gives a good prediction of things to come. The conflict has moved to Panama, Nicaragua, and Central America. The United States is suffocating. Afterwards, the United States will begin to explode from within. Let the United States get angry, and let it drop its bombs. It dropped its bombs on Japan, and now Japan is more powerful economically than the United States. If it frees itself from pressures, Japan could now manufacture the nuclear bomb in a day. Everything is available to the Japanese. Why? Because the United States hit Japan with atomic bombs. What is detrimental to some is beneficial to others.

Do you think that those who are hit with nuclear bombs are finished? Look at Japan [words indistinct]. We are a desert area which absorbs nuclear and hydrogen bombs, and those who remain alive afterwards become the new Japanese. The main thing is to overcome fear. There is no fear. We are not afraid and we will never retreat, no matter how many bombs they drop on us. Even if they occupy us we will resist. If they occupy us, they will see what resistance means, and they will lose.

They are dying to occupy us, but they know that occupying us is like dragging their naked bodies over thorns, blades, and cinders. If the United States wants to drag a naked body over thorns, blades, and cinders, then let it come to our land.

We are determined to shake the Arab land under America's feet until the U.S. presence is ended, until the U.S. presence returns in a new form, a form convinced that this nation must be respected and treated on equal terms, and that it should sit with this nation around the table of understanding with a new attitude.

When an Arab is buried alive in Palestine, the United States and Reagan say it is self-defense as far as the Israelis are concerned. When a Palestinian fighter attacked an Israeli base and killed armed soldiers who were occupying his land, Reagan said that it was a terrorist act which does not help the peace process.

In the end, the world, the Arabs, and those who are close or far have reaped the fruits of Camp David. Such was the peace process that Al-Sadat sowed. It has been crowned with the live burial of Palestinians. Consequently, what the rulers say does not represent the truth. We are determined, and they must understand that.

While we are celebrating the establishment of the state of the masses, I would have liked to see a model of an ideal state. I have delivered many lessons during the past bitter years on how to set up this ideal state, in which the family and state are self-sufficient, from the ordinary people to those who have power, authority, and arms.

I would have preferred not to have seen the enactment of the compulsory military service law. I would have liked to have seen the experiment of the armed people succeed, so that when we face any danger, corps of the armed people would immediately report to their camps. I delivered many lessons which are still written on how to establish a materially and morally unique state.

We said simple things on the need for the citizen to plant in his garden palm trees, vines, and olive trees. Imported bananas can be planted in his garden, as also can pepper-mint and parsley. We said that the cities should become productive. The land surrounding them should be divided into self-sufficient farms.

Every family in the city should be self-sufficient in agricultural produce, and the other part of the city should turn to technical production in workshops and craft centers. The number of civil servants should be reduced, and self-administration should be set up. We should concentrate on the growing of olives and palm trees, livestock and cereals. Why? Because they are the things that succeed on this soil. Libya could become an international farm.

Talk, war, and songs cannot last without an economic base. The economic base begins with the provision of food, not with money. We taught the difference between food and money. Money means that you sell oil and earn money, but this money is lost when you send it after the oil because you import food from those to whom you sold the oil. This means that oil and money went to the same foreigners.

We said: Use the money you take from oil for the production of food. Self-sufficiency for every family begins with food. Every family should think of its future, how to become self-sufficient, and not how to earn money. You can become

a middleman and a salesman, and tell your son to sell for 15 dinars a mirror which costs him 5 dinars, go and sell some other item. This means that you are just circulating money; you have not made anything new.

We said: Think how to produce materials, how to produce goods, how to produce food, not how to accumulate money. Because it is possible to trade in [word indistinct] from morning to night by 100 persons. This man buys for 1 piaster and sells for 2 piasters, the other buys it for 2 and sells for 3. By the end of the day we find that money has changed pockets. One may have more money, another may have become rich today, but the mirror has not increased, it has remained a single mirror. This is destruction and ruin. If we made this mirror and sold it for 2 piasters and you want to sell it for 5, go and make a better one and sell it for 5. By the end of the day we find that we have made 100. This means that we have really manufactured something.

Now if the Libyan takes a truck full of sheep, why prevent [words indistinct]? Buy it in Tubruq, sell in Benghazi. Then one buys it from you in Benghazi and sell it in Ijdabiyah, another buys it in (Ijdabiyah) and sells it in Surt, it reaches Misratah. The 10 sheep have not increased from Tubruq to Misratah, but the money has increased. This one earned 100 dinars, the other earned 150 dinars, the other earned 500 dinars. Do you think this is a gain? The gain is if 100 sheep give birth to another 20. Then you raise them and they become 40, and then they become 100; now it is not just your money that has become 100.

These are only examples. We spoke at length on how to create a state, but what interests me now is not how to make a state of this kind, because this depends on you. It seems to me that the citizen at this stage is not at the level of the Jamahiriyah. The proof is that the steps which should have been taken by the citizen himself in order to create the model and ideal state have not been taken. He is still drawn to the ordinary and traditional life. Even power—over which everybody fights everywhere, for which parties struggle and coups take place, for which people attack and assassinate each other—is now in the hands of the Libyan people, but sometimes they are lazy in exercising it.

There are other people who struggle for power, for partial power, or for participation in power. Power in Libya is fully in the hands of the people. The whole Libyan people are mobilized in people's conferences. How many basic people's conferences are there? There are almost 1,000 basic people's conferences, in which the Libyan people are mobilized. They have power, they adopt resolutions, they enact laws, they determine internal and external policy and the budget, they distribute, buy and cancel. Yet we exercise this power in a lazy manner and by proxy.

What I want to clarify now, which is enough for me, is to confirm the declaration of freedom. I said that the revolution which has risen and created the Jamahiriyah is a cry for freedom, a declaration of freedom. Consequently, what interests me is to make the state into a state of the free masses. I want everyone who is concerned with the cause of freedom, with the cause of human rights, and the world press to be present.

We have said: Never will the Jews or the Christians be satisfied with you unless you follow their form of religion. That is a verse from the Koran. Whatever you do, they will not be satisfied with you. And they consider us a dictatorship, even if the Jamahiriyah is established. Imagine! There is nothing better than the Jamahiriyah or better than democracy, which means the people are in the chair. Yet they still say Al-Qadhafi is the dictator, as though we issue orders or resolutions. They are people who will never be satisfied with us unless we follow their religion. We would like all the forces which search for truth in the world to attend, to see for themselves and for the benefit of mankind the making of a model for a truly democratic state, a free state.

And now, in order to establish a free state, there must be a final thrust for this path, like the historic thrust we made to bring people to power. We did not fear the masses or the masses control of everything. The masses took control of offices, provinces, companies, and establishments, and the workers took control of factories and the radio station. Al-Sadat contacted me at the time and told me that a battalion of paratroops was ready for the rescue should we need it, as he had heard that the masses had taken control of the radio station.

I laughed all the time and told him that we instigated the masses to take control of the radio station. We do not fear the masses. How can we fight the masses with a battalion of Egyptian paratroops? [applause] Subsequently we carried out an historic thrust, when the masses took control of everything, and the people's conferences and committees were set up and ended [word indistinct].

This took place in order to establish the Jamahiriyah. Now, in order to create the completely free state of the masses, there is a need for another daring operation in which we push matters right through. We cannot accept any pause in the middle of the road or partial solutions, or accept concocted solutions in order to complete a free state in which man enjoys in full his human rights for which he struggles and which we are denied everywhere.

The United States, which talks about human rights, is the first enemy of man, the first to distinguish between black and white, the first to deal with peoples through fleets, economic siege, economic sanctions, and political isolation. It has no other language than this barbaric and backward one. It lags several stages behind mankind. The United States lags several stages behind humanity; when it talks about human rights it is possibly talking about another human, a man of the jungle, a gorilla, something of this kind. It does not talk about homo sapiens, which has reached this stage.

It should be emphasized today, on the 11th anniversary of the establishment of people's power and the inauguration of the Jamahiriyah without any revision, that this is based on the establishment of people's power and the inauguration of the Jamahiriyah. As for the freedom of work for the Libyan individual on his own or with a group—any work which you see as beneficial to you, do it either on your own or in company with others. This is a principle; there is no need to say that is not allowed, prohibited, or should be licensed. You can obtain a license in order to organize trade.

As for work, every Libyan citizen, male or female, has the right to work on the land of Libya and enjoy the fruit of his efforts. What is prohibited is for the fruits of your efforts to be taken by another. That is exploitation. This is what we fight in order to eliminate: that one citizen should exploit the effort of another citizen.

As for the freedom to live and travel at home and abroad, Libyans should be free. We are proud of this because there are entire peoples who are prohibited. All the U.S. people are forbidden from going to Libya. That means a proportion of the globe, on the instructions of the dictatorial U.S. President—and for your information, the United States is living under a real personal dictatorship. All the institutions which you hear of are abolished in the face of the right of veto enjoyed by the President.

The President is the head of the government and parliament; the Senate and the House of Representatives are made up of a majority of the President's party. There is no people's supervision over the U.S. Government or over other Western governments like it. This is because the President enjoys the right of veto and overrules the resolutions of the legislature. You heard about the U.S. President cancelling Congress resolutions by using the right of veto. If he likes the resolutions, he calls them democratic, issued by the Congress. If he does not like them, he cancels them with the right of veto.

He has a law called the Emergency Law. When they announced that U.S. interests were endangered by Libya, he said to Congress: Libya is endangering U.S. foreign interests and is endangering the U.S. national interests and security. Consequently, a law should be formulated called the Emergency Law, which gives the President the right to govern the United States dictatorially as regards resolutions which concern Libya. He can wage war, kill Americans, send them, sabotage the U.S. economy. This is permitted, this is dictatorship.

U.S. citizens are forbidden on instructions from the President to go to Libya, even as tourists. See the dictatorship! Yesterday they were commenting on their radio and saying that the people of North Korea and of China are forbidden from going abroad. They said: Look at the dictatorship and the human rights which have disappeared in Korea and China because those governments are not allowing their citizens to go abroad. Look! They are even depriving U.S. citizens from the right to travel.

The rights of tourism to Libya are withheld from him—perhaps also to other areas, maybe Korea, Nicaragua, Ethiopia, and Angola. It is forbidden. They are forbidden from touring this country. Every day they comment on their radios, saying: Look at the dictatorship in Korea and China; the citizens are prohibited from going abroad. All right, Americans are forbidden from going to Libya.

If you want to fight Libya that is your affair, but I am a citizen going to that country, going as a tourist, going to work, going to do things. Thus, the American citizen needs to defend his rights. Human rights are seriously violated in the United States.

Libyan citizens, being free, supreme, without a government, without a president, and self-governing, are free. In addition to the work which they want to do individually or with others, and in addition to being free from exploitation, they are also able to go and reside in any part of the world. And any Libyan citizen abroad can come to Libya either on a temporary or permanent basis, and go as he wants. This is the country of the masses, the state of the masses; all Libyans are free to come and go. Those abroad can enter and those inside can go according to their circumstances. If you have money and you want to leave, then leave. If you want to open a shop in Malta, then go and open a shop in Malta.

If a Libyan wants to go and open a shop in Tunisia, he is free, let him go and open a shop in Tunisia. If you have money and you want to tour abroad, then go. If you want to go and reside abroad and take out Australian nationality, then go. You are free.

These are free people who can move around the world as they wish, unless others prevent them from doing so. We said: democracy and people's rule, not people's expression, because the people who stage demonstrations are striving for power. Why demonstrate? What is it for? It is to attain power. The Libyan people have attained power. Thus democracy is people's rule, not people's expression.

The one who expresses himself is the one who is chained, the one who cannot move and who therefore attempts to express his aspirations through speech, because he cannot do so in actions. He is chained and wants the chains lifted, and consequently he demonstrates, strikes, stages hunger strikes, and commits suicide. This is what happens in other countries.

As to the one who rules himself—against whom is he going to demonstrate? Protest at what? Stage a sit-in against whom? We want to confirm to the Libyan people, while they exercise power, so that it may not be said that they are banned from doing anything, that these people who have reached the top exercise power. Its individuals can express themselves in practice at people's conferences and approve their internal and external policies at the people's conferences.

Yet any Libyan can, in accordance with the Green Book which says that the natural man is free to express himself. Even if he behaves madly he can express his madness. You are free to express yourself. The judicial person is free to express his judicial personality. But in these two cases, the first represents only himself and the second represents only the total sum of the natural persons who constitute his judicial personality. Society consists of many natural men and many judicial personalities. Thus a natural man's expression of his madness, for instance, does not mean that the remaining members of the society are also mad.

In other words, the natural man's expression means only his expression of himself, and the judicial person's expression means only an expression of the interest or opinion of those who constitute that judicial personality. The press is society's means of expression, not the means of expression, not the means of the expression of a natural or judicial

person. As for an individual who owns a newspaper, it is his newspaper and it expresses his point of view only. The claim that it is the newspaper of public opinion is a false one, because it expresses in reality the point of view of the natural man only. He expresses himself by any means, even if it was a mad one, in order to prove his madness.

The natural man has the right to express himself only, and democratically he only has the right to express no more than himself. From this premise, and in confirmation of it, any Libyan who wants to publish a newspaper is free from tomorrow to do so. Even if—how many Libyans are there?—3.5 or 4 million newspapers appear tomorrow to express the view of each free individual. Of course the expression of an opinion is to express a view in relation to an issue which concerns the life of the people. The people are in people's conferences; they discuss and approve their interests.

But the one who expresses a view in a newspaper cannot approve anything, because he is not in power and wants to protest and to express his point of view, and perhaps the authorities will adopt it. But when you are in power you do not need a newspaper to express your opinion.

Any Libyan from tomorrow, can if he wishes, or even feels like proving that he is free and wants to ascertain that he is free, publish a newspaper. If you cannot publish a newspaper, and you want to publish a leaflet, write your name on it and publish it. This is the leaflet of so-and-so. I have no money to publish a newspaper—of course you cannot receive money from abroad or at home, this is your affair and you are free; otherwise it will be considered a crime if you receive money from a foreign source and publish a newspaper with it. This becomes treason. That is not permitted anywhere in the world. But if you have the capabilities to publish a newspaper tomorrow, any Libyan can do so. We are not afraid. Any Libyan.

We Libyans are all sharing power. That is fine, everyone who wants to publish a paper can do so. If you do not wish to publish a newspaper, fine, tomorrow is 3 March, if you do not want to publish a newspaper you can issue a circular. Write your name and address on it and say that you shoulder the responsibility of what you say in it, and this is your viewpoint. This sort of thing is purely (superfluous). If you do not wish to express your views at the people's congress or if you want to augment it, and you wish to express it in the newspaper in question, you can say it.

But printing it has no meaning at all in the state of the masses. It is meaningless for one to publish a newspaper or issue a circular in the state of the masses. It is meaningless because all the masses are participating in power through the people's congresses. What you want to say in the circular can be said at the people's congress where it can become a resolution and be adopted by the people's congresses and become part of the policy of the Jamahiriyah.

If it is a question of challenging others, the Libyan people are free. They can publish newspapers and leaflets tomorrow. Issue circulars. If you have no paper to write on you can write on the wall. Say: I am Mr so-and-so. I have no paper or newspaper but I am writing on the wall. You can write on

(the wall on one condition: namely, after you write whatever you wish, after people have read it you erase it and paint the wall clean again. And after people read it erase it again. [applause])

We challenge them. We do not want them to say that there is no freedom of expression in this country. We challenge them in a peaceful way so that they can raise their hands high and say: This is the ideal state; this is the lost paradise; this is heaven on earth; this is the virtuous city; this is the dream of the philosophers; this is Athena reborn; this is the lost paradise.

And so that you can make sure we invite all newsmen, writers, and analysts, and those who have an association with human rights and Amnesty International to come to the Jamahiriyyah and see the state of the masses where the citizen is free and in power, free at work, free in his life and in his movements, free to enter and to leave, free to express himself, and free to do what he says.

For your information, and for that of the ambassadors of foreign countries and newsmen and guests, no Libyans have had their property removed since the emergence of the revolution, except for those cases in which the wealth of the people was recovered from whom it was stolen.

I ask anybody to come from any place whatever to carry out an investigation with any Libyan who says: This building is inherited from my great-great-grandfather, or it is a result of my own sweat and toil. Or: I was walking along the road and found gold and silver, and this gold and silver legally became my property and with it I bought this building. Or: I was at home and heaven opened up on me and poured gold and silver. Or: This farm had manna fall on it from God.

I would like to see a single Libyan who can come and challenge and say: This is the result of my own sweat and toil; this farm, or land, or building, or this money in the bank, or this car, or this company, is mine. If so it will be given back to him tomorrow. All the money that was taken was stolen from its real owners, the people, from the sweat of the peasants, the workers, the small employees, and the people who were exploited.

If anyone had buildings that were recovered under the so-called Law No. 4, these buildings were taken from the wealth of the people. Someone comes to the bank and asks the bank: give me 11 million. The bank gives him 11 million. He built a building with the money. We came and retrieved it. He comes along and says: They have taken my building. Afterwards he flees abroad. Why have you fled? He says: Because they have taken my building. Don't say: They have taken my building. Say: The building which I took from the people, the free people, has been recovered from me. [applause]

Subsequently you can also say: I was angry because the people recovered their money. Fair enough. He is angry because the people recovered their property. We accept this willingly. He is angry because the people have recovered their wealth.

Who owns the apartments? Who owns the fields? Who owns the companies? Who owns the land and construction sites which we took? Who? It is the unemployed poor citizens? Never, it is either a minister, ambassador, deputy, teacher, or lawyer. It is an exploiter entrepreneur, broker, prime minister, king, crown prince, or his cousins. These are the people who own Libyan land; it is those [words indistinct].

Show me an ordinary Libyan who used to own some land. This happened only after the revolution, when the law on urban construction was issued, following which any citizen was allowed to have access to a loan. A soldier who resigned from the Army got a loan and built five apartments. After that he gave them back to the people when he realized that it was not right to borrow from the bank in order to build five apartments. That person became a rich man immediately. He used to be a soldier, a humble shopkeeper, or a shepherd, then he became wealthy.

It is because of the revolution for the days we allowed you to enjoy. You were nobody and you became somebody. You should not turn your back on the revolution, saying: I managed to build five apartments. It is the revolution which told you to build five apartments. One could find that one person owns Tripoli, Benghazi, or [word indistinct], or they are shared between two or three persons. All the construction land is shared between them to the extent that no citizen is able to bury or build until he pays this exploiter.

We have recaptured the land. Go and bury, take your land, build on it, farm it, build houses. This exploiter fled the country and joined Zionism, while saying: They took my land from me. How can one say that they took your land from you. You should say that the Libyans recovered their land from you. That would be right.

I challenge any Libyan, and I am ready to open an inquiry on any case of this sort—not even an inquiry carried out by a Libyan, you may choose any world commission, neutral people that the world trusts, or you may bring a lawyer from Austria or Honduras—and come and tell me that the revolution took this land from you, or this money, or this building because it was inherited from your grandfather and was created by the sweat of your brow. He could be assured that he will recover it tomorrow. Anybody who has inherited properties, or properties that they built themselves, or even if they believe that they have properties dating back to the days of the Ottomans, will be able to have them.

As for those properties which were stolen, they have been returned to the people. The Libyans who are on the run abroad think that they are being targeted because they were deprived of their land, their farms, their palaces, and their apartments. That is why they fled, because they thought they were criminals. No, let them come back home because the Libyan people are not after their lives, they are after their fortunes, and they have recovered their wealth. Let them come back home.

Anybody who returns is allowed to be a member of the people's congress and entitled to express his opinion. He will be allowed immediate membership in the people's

congresses, and may say that he has a right, that he is being persecuted, and that he has opinion better than yours, and that in my opinion that a Libyan [words indistinct]. Let him come and contribute.

Anyway, we challenge, we challenge. They think that we throw Libyans out of the country, deprive them, and if they return to the country, we will kill them. I challenge them here. Any Libyan who returns to the country, and if there are Libyans abroad, will be a member of the people's congresses and express the opinions that they air abroad here inside the country. We are not afraid of them. The person who is afraid is the one who expels and imprisons people.

If we are afraid we are not revolutionaries. If you are afraid of something, you should tackle it and destroy it. We are not afraid. The one who is afraid is the one who clings to power, rigs elections, and makes his son hereditary. He is afraid that the people will tell him that they do not accept his son. He can be afraid of the opposition; the one who rules is the one who can be afraid.

As for the Libyan people, it is they who rule. If anybody can oppose the Libyan people, let him come and attack the Libyan people. As for me, there is nobody who can challenge me. Can they challenge me in a place which is threatened by U.S. raids? I am wanted by international imperialism. If someone thinks he can have my position he is welcome to it, but I know that nobody is brave enough to even sleep by my side. [applause]

We invited presidents and kings, but they were afraid and said that they were unable to come to Libya. We invited them to a summit conference and they declined, because they said that Al-Qadhafi's position is targeted. Therefore, there is nobody who can challenge me. Anyone is welcome to challenge me for this dangerous position.

As for the Libyans, it has become clear that they are able to establish their state any way they want it to be. It is the right of the people's congress to dispute anybody they believe is interfering in the freedom of any Libyan citizen. Let it be clear: We have security apparatuses, we have specialist military intelligence in the army. All countries of the world will have a military intelligence until the establishment of the people's militia or people's defense, according to the law which you have created.

You have a criminal investigation body, and it is known that every country has a criminal investigation body; they are secret people searching for and investigating secret crimes. No naive person would abolish these things. The United States, which boasts about human rights, has the strongest mechanisms for controlling the citizen.

An American who was in Libya was sentenced to 90 years in prison, despite the fact that his age was 70 or so. How many years has he got to live? They still sentenced him like that. It is a complete disregard and flouting of human rights. Yes, it is disregard of human life to be sentenced to 90 years in prison because he was in Libya. And who sentenced him? U.S. intelligence trapped him and brought him to court and then put him in prison.

The American citizen is terrified of U.S. intelligence and there is no one to abolish it, although these organizations are created by governments, while here they are created by the people themselves, and you have got the Jamahiriyyah Security Body [Hay'at Amn al-Jamahirriyah], which is for external security.

I know there are some complaints about these organs as they discharge their duties. They might arrest somebody, not on a mere whim, but out of belief that he is conspiring against the people's authority. This is clear. Or they might tell someone not to travel abroad because of conspiratorial relations abroad—such cases exist in other countries. But when the Libyan people feel—and I want to emphasize this as the leader of this revolution, and you are not hearing this from someone else [applause and chants]—if the Libyan people have seen in their people's congresses that these organs are interfering in their affairs, or controlling any of their functions, or going beyond their duties which are drawn up by the people in the people's congresses, the people are capable of intervening and putting an end to their practices, and bringing those responsible to trial in a lawful way.

A people's congress or a group of people's congresses can hold a meeting and put on trial any such phenomenon. You can change them, whether you say you want Mr X, Y, and Z to be in the Jamahiriyyah Security Body, X, Y, and Z in the criminal investigation apparatus, and X, Y, and Z in the military intelligence, or you can change them into a people's committee or four people's committees, or you can change them every month or bring a group of workers and peasants to head these organs, or a group of doctors and students to head them.

You can do all of this because these are organs that are under the people's masses' control. There is no ruler or head of government who appoints them behind the back of the people. They are popular organs for the interests of the people. If you want to abolish them you can do that in one day, and you have to do without them thereafter. Even if you decide to abolish them, there will come a day when you will regret it. Before even a year passes you will bring them back—not after a year but after merely a few months you would say that the foreigners have ambitions on us. There is U.S. intelligence, the Mosad [word indistinct], and espionage, and we have abolished the organs which were watching them.

These organs are under the authority of the people. After what I have said who can today come and complain that he is afraid of the body's officers, afraid of the criminal investigation officers, or afraid of other officers? If there is no need for officers, you can change them into civilians. Put in peasants, as I have told you. Take some officials and workers of the cement company and make them criminal investigators. Form a committee for them.

There is nothing like this anywhere in the world. Why is it that the people today interfere in the business of the government? The government knows its spies and its secret officers who spy on the people. But when there is no government and no ruler, and the people govern themselves, they are the ones responsible for these matters. This is the

new era which has started to emerge. Those who oppressed their peoples and ruled them by iron and fire did not create anything. They ended up in the dustbin of history and their peoples were left feeble and unable to rise again without them.

This is failure. If it had been useful one could have followed it. It is failure because he who suppresses the people and oppresses the masses and hates the masses and is afraid of them has never succeeded. If he had succeeded we would have followed him as from tomorrow, but he failed and what was the end of him? The free peoples are the creators of life and the ones who changed the map of the world. They are the victors. Therefore, anything that stands in the way of the freedom of the people must be removed.

As regards the Arabs, let all the Arabs hear. All the borders, the Libyan borders, are open without any condition or restriction to all Arabs from the ocean to the Gulf; they have all the rights enjoyed by the Arab Libyans; they can work, possess, reside, organize conferences, organize unions, and behave like the rest of the Libyans, because this land is an Arab land and we are only part of the Arab people. This applies to all Arabs.

I will strongly oppose any Libyan at border points, airports, or ports who would stop any Arab from entering. All right, let me tell you, you are afraid of Arabs entering. Before these cardboard states were created in the Arab homeland, planned by colonialism, created in this form, and with kings and presidents to rule them. Previous to this, Arab citizens could not leave Morocco for Mecca without a passport. What happened? Tell me, what happened? Nothing happened. On the contrary, Arabs knew each other and cooperated with each other. They would come to us from Morocco on foot, and we would play host to them, feed them, offer them drinks, and give them old clothes.

Now, when you enter they ask you: Where is your passport, who gave you permission, and how much money do you have?

As of today, any Arab—let Arabs from the ocean to the Gulf hear me—Libya is their country. They can enter at airports, seaports, and border points and I will oppose any Libyan who would stop any Arab entering Libya. Any Arab entering Libya is equal to the Libyan Arabs who are here. [applause] If we ever hear of a Libyan People's Bureau abroad having prevented any Arab from entering Libya unconditionally we will send masses from here or masses from Benghazi to storm them and destroy them. [words indistinct]

It has nothing to do with people's committees. I will personally wait every day—some day at an airport, some day at a seaport, and some day at a border point. [applause]

Let us see what would happen. Let us see what would become of Arabs. An Arab comes to us, whom we do not know. Just an Arab who wants to enter. Please enter. He may steal, for example. That is it, he will be treated just like a Libyan who steals. He kills; he will be treated like a Libyan who kills.

Arab workers who are in Europe and who suffer from racism—particularly in France—have the right to enter Libya as of tomorrow, and they have the right to employment, residence, ownership, travel, entry, and departure, just like the Libyan people. I hope that tomorrow 20 million Arabs enter Libya; it would be an auspicious day. This is Libya. This is Arab land. This is Arab unity. [applause]

All Arabs in the four corners of the world as they say, who have fled repression, who are persecuted by the police and tyranny, must come to the land of freedom. All Arabs from all over the world who have fled repression and injustice, who lack the freedom of expression, freedom of publishing, freedom of scientific research, and freedom of belief, must come to the land of freedom, and I will promise to the world that they can come and bring with them any neutral party to verify that when they come to the Jamahiriyyah they will find that what I have said is true. No one would be [word indistinct].

They will not be persecuted in the state of the Jamahiriyyah for the things they have been persecuted for in another Arab country. All Arab scientists, experts, technicians, ordinary citizens, traders, all Arabs who have fled repression and injustice in the Arab homeland, can come to the land of the masses, to the state of the masses, and to the free land. I make this challenge before the world.

Let them apply all the safeguards when they come here, which will confirm the truthfulness of this statement. A Libyan or non-Libyan Arab who has fled for any reason related to freedom can come to enjoy freedom in the free land. This land is determined to spread the sun of freedom everywhere in the world. It is also determined to remain free or die bravely on its feet.

Another challenge comes from the enemies of the Jamahiriyyah and the enemies of freedom, who doubt our ability to possess enough courage to create this state. In actual fact, the cowards are not capable of creating it. The cowards are afraid of the masses and are afraid of the fugitives. They are afraid of those who are imprisoned. They are afraid of the opposition. The revolutionaries are not afraid. They are not cowards. It is not possible for a revolutionary to be a coward.

If he is a coward it means that he is not a revolutionary. If he is a revolutionary then he is absolutely not a coward. The revolutionary does not act for his own benefit, because he is aligned with others, irrespective whether they are in prison or are fugitives abroad, or whether they are in opposition or have right-wing or left-wing views. He is not afraid of them because he is with the others.

There is a difference between the people about whom I am talking and those who are hirelings, agents, or traitors. That is another matter. Treason is condemned anywhere. The use of force and treachery against the people are condemned. Because you oppose me you try and kill me—this is condemned. I go along with you but you betray me—this is treason and it is condemned.

As for those who betrayed—I mean the Libyans who are in prison, those who conspired with external quarters—such conspiring is inspired from abroad and is linked to foreign circles. This brings dishonor to its authors because such a person will have conspired inside his own country with someone living abroad. He loses the right to dissent and the right to the revolution when he becomes a conspirator with outside links.

Those who tried to use arms were thinking of their own purposes. These are not included in the list of traitors. With the exception of these, I declare before the whole world that these number less than 100 persons throughout the 20 or 19 years of the life of the revolution. The revolution is nearing its 20th year.

For the information of the foreign ambassadors, foreign correspondents, foreign guests, the secretaries of the external people's congresses and the secretaries of the international people's congresses who are with us here, and the secretaries of the pan-Arab people's congresses of non-Libyan Arabs, and the rest of the world that is listening to me at this moment, for your information, those who were accused of treason—those whom this description fits and who conspired with someone abroad or committed the crime of treason, and treachery—and who were not included in the pardon as a result of court sentences against their treason, treachery, and conspiring from abroad, or those whose cases are still pending before the courts, these cases do not exceed 100 persons during a period of 19 years.

They are one category. As for the rest of the Libyans who are imprisoned, they conspired to murder Mu'ammr al-Qadhafi since 1970. This applies, for example, if someone thought of assassinating me, whether he is a military man or a civilian, or he tried or thought of assassinating me. Naturally, I have not been exposed to any assassination or murder attempt which has not been announced abroad. [applause] There are some people who have been arrested. For these you can stop the sentence against them because they thought of killing Mu'ammr.

Concerning these people, so far as I personally am concerned, I pardon them, whatever the verdict against them whether at home or abroad, whatever the sentence that was passed against them. This applies also to those Libyans who conspired at home before the rise of the Jamahiriyyah and before the vision became clear to them; some of them might have been sent to prison because they dreamed of the (vengeance) of people's power and they used to think that there would be a military council and that it would establish a military dictatorship.

However, it has dawned on them that there is no military dictatorship by a military council, but it is a revolution with popular roots; we organized it when we were students in primary and secondary schools. We then formed the first cells of this revolution. It was a people's revolution from the start. But there were those who used to think that it was a military revolution and military dictatorship. They conspired and have been arrested and sentenced.

There were those who thought that the revolution was a right-wing move by nationalist officers or by officers who were in the royalist army and who, therefore, must certainly be right-wing, and consequently the revolution would be right-wing and would prevent popular and progressive movements. There were those who conspired in the name of Marxism, or communism, or Trotskyism, or anarchy.

The revolution which has now been established in the Jamahiriyyah is the essence of the thoughts of the communists, the Marxists, the anarchists, the utopians and the isolationists, those who believe in the virtuous city and those who are searching for the lost paradise. They have all become embodied in the Jamahiriyyah. This is because power, wealth, arms and all assets have fallen into the hands of the people in an organized way through the people's congresses and people's committees, and through congresses and committees everywhere.

Now they are sorry because they believed that the revolution was going to be a bourgeois revolution. We have read their circulars and literature. They reflected the military bourgeoisie. They were becoming used to the fact that a number of Arab military revolutions turned into a military bourgeoisie and then into a military dictatorship. The nationalist revolution was aborted and did not reach the stage of the social revolution.

Those who believed that a military council was ruling them—we could have established a military council in the first days, and they would not have known who was Mu'ammr, who was this or that man—they would not know that this was a revolution. They were puzzled. We were second lieutenants and first lieutenants, they said that military men, low-ranking officers seized power. How can it be? We are majors and lieutenant colonels?

Come on, let us do something. We will pardon these people. This is my own responsibility. No one can object to it. Tomorrow I will demolish the prison and set them free. [applause]

All the Libyans of this type—except those about whom I talked to you, not more than 100, those who are accused of treason and connection with foreign circles, and who tried to use force to achieve other aims—for the rest of the Libyans, and I am not at all embarrassed to cite this figure before the world, because tomorrow they will be free men—they will be free. Approximately 400 Libyans will be free tomorrow. Their relatives and families should go tomorrow and be outside the prison in Tripoli in order to demolish this prison. [applause]

As of the beginning of the people's congresses and the drafting of their resolutions, all the extraordinary courts will be abolished. Only the people's court, which will be formed by the people's congresses, will remain and all cases will be referred to it. [applause]

In order that I may not be accused of being more god-natured than necessary and that I may not be accused of being naive by some people, I am fully aware of the fact that prophets, heroes, and saints have been murdered. Christ

was crucified according to the Christian and Jewish faiths, although this is not the case in the Koran. The Koran says that it appeared to them that they crucified him; but they did not kill him absolutely.

But according to their faith Christ said: If anyone strikes your right cheek, offer him your left cheek; if anyone forces you to walk with him one step, walk 1 mile with him; and if anyone quarrels with you about a part of your shirt, give him your entire shirt. [sentence as heard]

This Messiah is unparalleled in tolerance. Nevertheless they tried to kill and crucify him. What crime is it for a man to say: If anyone strikes you on your right cheek, offer him your left cheek? Even so, they tried to kill him. Today they believe that they did kill and crucify him.

Of Umar ibn al-Khattab it was said: You have ruled and dispensed justice; therefore you have earned a nap under the tree. O Umar. Despite this, Umar was killed. He was assassinated while he was leading the dawn prayers. He was stabbed from behind despite that he ruled with so much justice that he was not afraid to sleep under a tree. & Umar al-Mukhtar [as heard] encountered a Satan, someone who was a tyrant in recent history, someone who did not uphold these values and did not appreciate Umar al-Mukhtar's place in history or his justice—malicious, racist, bribed, he stabbed him and killed him.

'Ali ibn Abi Talib, may God venerate him, died by assassination. He was killed while he was leading dawn prayers. Uthman ibn 'Affan was killed while he was reading the Koran at dawn. The three wise Khalifas—as they are called in the history of Islam—the three of them were assassinated. And Savonarola, who turned Florence into an earthly paradise, was a saint—the revolutionary saint. They burned him at the stake. This was his end. Prophets were killed. Abraham Lincoln had no parallel in America; he liberated the slaves. But he was killed. He was assassinated.

Saint Just, the just saint in the French Revolution, was killed at the age of 27. Robespierre, one of the heroes of the French Revolution, liberator of the masses, was destroyed by the masses, who crushed his head. They killed him.

Danton, the one who stirred the French people, a hero of the French Revolution, was led by the French people to the guillotine. But when he was about to be beheaded they asked him to say his last words. He told them: I am happy. They asked: How can you be happy? He said: I want the French people to be free. As long as the French people have become free enough to sentence me to death, I am quite assured. My wish has been realized; this nation has become free; it has sentenced Danton to death.

Gandhi, Mahatma Gandhi the (Spirit), the messenger of non-violence, was killed. Prophets, messengers, saints, heroes were assassinated. This does not mean that if one is a saint or a prophet, or if one turns his left cheek after being struck on the right cheek, he can escape assassination. No. The question of murder and assassination is something else. A person leaves prison and he is assassinated. This is another matter.

You must understand it so that it is not said that all people are good and that one does not seek revenge from wise people and that saints are revered and venerated. No. They killed prophets; I am very aware of the end of people like these. Consequently I (do not rule out) anything. Because even if you reached the level of the messiah you can be murdered; or expelled from your country.

There are two things history can never say about me. One is that it never can be said that this man imposed on his people a certain thing. I told you last year and I reaffirm it today. I affirmed it on a previous occasion during one of the national celebrations. You are free. Tomorrow you could hold your popular congresses and decide anything. You can change the form of the Jamahiriyyah, adopt any system. The important thing is that you are a free people who have made a decision. Free people executed their own hero Danton.

Free people can change the Jamahiriyyah or change the form of the governing system. They could give it another name or change its contents; the important thing is that this takes place through the free popular will of Libyans who are all equal and among who there is no distinction made between an employee and an employer. No one should own an apartment building and rent apartments because then the tenant would be under the owner's control. There should not be a feudalism along with a worker on the land of the feudalism.

The important thing is that the Libyan people are all equal in power, wealth, and the bearing of arms. Your resolutions will thus be resolutions decided by masters who occupy positions and who decide whatever they wish. The only thing is that you should reach agreement among yourselves. The problem is how the masters are going to agree on one resolution.

You can decide on anything that relates to your destiny.

There is one thing history will not write: namely, that I forced my people to accept the Green Book, or the Jamahiriyyah system, or the form of rule. No, it is before the world to see. It is on the record. Put it in an outside library, even outside Libya, so that no one can burn it. Do that so that it will be an undertaking and a commitment on my part that this nation is free and can tomorrow hold its congresses and decide anything and change anything, even the form of the state. You can change everything.

Second, fear can never be linked to me. Someone who imprisons people is someone who fears them. I do not fear people at all. Tomorrow, along with the families of the detainees, I will assault the prison in Tripoli with tractors and will demolish it and set free 400 Libyan detainees. I am prepared before the world to give these 400 people weapons and let them be my guards. [applause]

I can never be a jailer. I am a liberator. However, the security organs, the Libyan people, and the popular congresses might give me problems. They might say: You have released those who conspired against us and who betrayed the people's authority. However, everyone has some good hidden in him. If he can get hold of it, he can turn from a Satan into an angel. This is a historic opportunity for 400

Libyans and for the hundreds of Libyans who are their families. I personally take responsibility for this. I am not afraid of them. I am not afraid of the jailed ones. If I imprisoned them, it was for your sake.

Or you imprisoned them later because you (I thought it was necessary). I am not afraid of anyone, whether at home or abroad. I am not afraid of the United States and its might and the NATO alliance behind it. [applause] Their bombs were falling on us and we were saying: We will never change, ever. We will continue. Would I be afraid of a handful of people who failed in their attempts? Tomorrow I am prepared to give them weapons and walk among them. Tomorrow foreign newsmen can come with me to the prison and make sure that I have demolished the prison and set free these inmates, that I am liberator of individuals and the masses' notions and can never be a jailer. [applause]

I am on the side of freedom. Tomorrow a Sudanese song should be sung which says: In the prison [word indistinct] down has broken; neither prison nor the jailer remained. [applause] The down resembles two wings which emerged from across the horizon, and the sorrow which went tears from those eyes no more, and no more handcuffs or being scattered in every valley. [poetic verse] It is a joy that comes forth from every sad heart, O my country. Let us go forward and the struggle continues. [applause and shouts of acclaim]

Paper Reports Building of Defenses in Azawad
LD081324 Kuwait KUNA in English 1222 GMT
3 Mar 88

[Text] Geneva, March 3 (KUNA)—Libya had started building major fortifications at key points in the Azawad strip, whose ownership is disputed by Chad and Libya, the Swiss newspaper "LE MATIN" reported Wednesday.

Building work on a massive network of defensive positions started two months ago, with some of the biggest concentrations in the Korian zone in the extreme north-west of Chad, at the town of Azawad, the air bases of Tanus in south-west Libya and Maaten es-Sara in the south east, it said.

The defenses were very similar to those built by Morocco in the Western Sahara, with a basic structure of walls of rock and sand between three and five metres high and six metres wide.

These were protected by fields of mines, missiles, mobile radar systems, 122-mm artillery, multiple rocket launchers and SA-7 ground anti-aircraft missiles.

Some 12,000 men and 250 tanks manned the fortifications, and these were backed up by TU-22 bombers, 35 Soviet Hind helicopters and numerous attack planes and transporters, LE MATIN said.

The construction amounted to a defensive measure against any eventual organisation of African unity decision assigning the strip to Chad, it commented.

Brazilian Firm Contracts To Provide Missiles
NC031007 Cairo MENA in English 1738 GMT
3 Mar 88

[Text] Paris, March 3 (MENA)—The Brazilian firm "Orbital" has recently signed a 2 billion dollar contract with the Libyan Government whereby Brazil is to provide Libya with missiles of over a 600 mile range.

The Arab-language magazine "AL-WATAN AL-ARABI" to be published here tomorrow said that American officials have expressed their dismay over the deal to the Brazilian Government.

Sudan

Al-Mahdi: Foreign Troop Presence Not Allowed
JN031045 Khartoum SUNA in English 1740 GMT
3 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum, March 3 (SUNA)—The Sudanese Premier Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi today stressed that Sudan would not allow the presence of foreign forces within its territory.

In a statement here today the prime minister said that "in principle" the Sudanese Government would not take part in the conflict between Chad and Libya.

He pinpointed, however, that there had been foreign troops in the Sudan—a reference to the Libyan troops which entered disguised in the relief aid workers [as received], as was reported at the time—but the premier asserted that these troops were moved outside the Sudan.

He said the Armed sources [as received] would soon issue a statement explaining the whole situation, (on the Sudanese western borders). It is to be recalled that Chad is allegedly saying Libyan troops are currently stationed in western Sudan.

Meanwhile the interior minister has recently said the deteriorated security situation in Darfur, western Sudan, was not due to armed robbery but to the presence of foreign troops in the area. He did not however, spell out the nature, nor the number nor the nationality of these troops though it is believed he was referring to what is known as the Libyan-backed Islamic battalion.

Armed Forces Issues Communique on Darfur, West
JN041156 Khartoum SUNA in English 1005 GMT
4 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Khartoum Mar 4 (SUNA)—The governor of Darfur Region 'Abd al-Nabi 'Ali Ahmad has categorically denied the presence of any Libyan troops in the region.

The governor said in a press statement issued here yesterday that the current war in Chad had led many anti-government tribes to [words indistinct]. 'Abd al-Nabi 'Ali Ahmad

4 March 1988

accused political parties that he did not name, of trying to flare up sedition in the region adding that "some Sudanese tribes are also working to benefit politically from their part in Chad."

He indicated that urgent measures had been taken to boost the security forces there to deal with the situation there. He further said that diplomatic contacts were under way at the regional and central governments level to solve the problem with neighboring countries. [passage omitted]

In a last development the people's Armed Forces issued here today a communique on the security situation in Darfur and the western part of the country.

The communique [refers] to the efforts exerted by the military leadership in the western area, saying it had been combing the region and confronting any foreign presence in Sudan territories since last year.

The Sudanese Armed Forces successfully arrested some armed men and compelled them to withdraw, the communique said adding that the Armed Forces have besieged some armed group along the border and compelled them to evacuate the region.

However, the communique failing to identify any foreign troops but stressed its readiness to confront any foreign infiltration, that aims at liquidating any regional disputes in Sudan territories.

Al-Mahdi Views Garang's Ethiopian Connections

EA032209 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic
1400 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Mr Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, the prime minister and minister of defense, has said that there is a reason behind Garang's refusal to negotiate and his obstinacy in bearing arms. The reasons are his connection with Ethiopia and his hope of becoming the political leader of the country.

The prime minister, who was presenting a study on minorities issues in our Arab world the day before yesterday, said that Ethiopia was trying to use Garang as a trump card to prove its allegation that Sudan is supporting the Oromo and Eritrea liberation movements.

His excellency explained that Garang has personal ambitions of becoming the political leader of the country. He fears that if he responds to negotiations and peace, he will not achieve those imaginary ambitions, particularly as he can see what happened after the 1972 Addis Ababa agreement and what was achieved by the leadership of the rebellion during that time.

The prime minister said at the start of his paper that Sudan is one of the most cohesive African countries from social and national aspects. He explained that by thinking and by sitting down at the negotiating table, it is possible to solve all Sudanese issues, such as religion, politics, the distribution of wealth and power, balanced development, and various other problems afflicting the whole country.

Trip of Nile Relief Barges, Clashes Detailed

EA032111 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic
1400 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Excerpts] The Armed Forces report they have scored another heroic victory and achieved a great national feat by transporting relief and food supplies to the Upper Nile region. The masses of the people in the region had been eagerly awaiting the arrival of the tugs, which set off from Kosti with relief supplies for Malakal.

When the rebels announced their determination to block all attempts to save the hungry in the Upper Nile region, they made it clear that their aim was to destroy the lives of innocent civilians. The protection of the supply convoy was a military operation that the Armed Forces knew they had to carry out to save the people of the region who were relying on relief and food supplies at that time.

The route of the supply convoy was as follows:

The life-giving tugs left the port of Kosti at 1500 on Tuesday [as heard] 10 February, protected by loyal soldiers under the command of Colonel Muhammad Ishaq. Our infantry on both banks of the river escorted the convoy on foot. Another group of our forces traveled aboard the barges and tugs. There were 12 tugs. Each tug towed six barges full of supplies, making a total of 72 barges. The tugs moved upstream from Kosti and reached Renk on 20 February. From there they moved on to Gelhak.

Clashes: The first clash with the rebels took place at the island of Al-Shukkabah. The rebels tried to attack the river convoy, but our soldiers were always alert and prepared. The battle, which lasted for hours, ultimately resulted in the withdrawal of the rebels, who left behind 82 dead. Our soldiers captured 15 Kalashnikov guns, an RPG, two cannons, and a radio transmitter. We lost two martyrs at this place. Three men were injured.

Subsequently, our forces clashed again with the rebels and inflicted on them a loss of 23 dead and five injured, including an officer with the rank of first lieutenant. Two hundred and seventeen were killed in one battle [as heard].

The tugs continued their journey, reaching the area of Detwok on 25 February. The rebels again tried to attack the convoy in an operation lasting from 1100 to 1300. Our people heroically repulsed the attacks of the outlaws. The clash resulted in a disastrous loss to the rebels, 127 of whom were killed during the 2 hours of fighting. Several others were injured. We lost one martyr, and 10 men were injured.

The friendly forces also sacrificed a martyr and had four men injured. The Central Reserve [al-ithiyat al-markazi], who also took part in the journey, sacrificed a martyr and five injured. Among the civilians, a man and three women were injured. A number of outlaws were taken prisoner during this clash, which broke the back of the rebels. It was clear that they would repeat their futile attempts in order to save face.

After imprisoning some of the rebels, our forces were able to discover the places where the rebels intended to lay ambushes along the route of the tugs.

The river convoy continued its journey under the protection of our heroic soldiers, reaching Kodok at noon on 25 May [as heard]. From there it moved toward Fasaka with active support from ground forces stationed along the banks. In this area our forces clashed with the rebels and repulsed them. As a result 37 rebels were killed. Not one of our men was hurt. We captured [words indistinct] gun and Kalashnikov rifles.

Arrival at Malakal: The convoy rested the night at (Nakayr) and then continued its journey on 28 February, reaching Wau Shilluk at 1000. It entered Malakal on the morning of 29 February. [passage omitted]

SPLA Warns Enemy To Evacuate Kajo Kaji
*EA031636 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese
People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 3 Mar 88*

[Text] Commander James Wani Igga, alternate member of SPLM-SPLA Political Military High Command and zonal commander of Central and Western Equatoria, has issued a strong warning to the enemy commander in Kajo Kaji, Major Elven, and his soldiers to evacuate Kajo Kaji in 2 days.

The warning was issued following heavy fighting in Kajo Kaji between the SPLA forces of Shakkush Task Force II, Central Equatoria Zonal Headquarters, and the enemy forces in Kajo Kaji, which began on the 21st of last month.

In his strong-worded warning, Commander Wani told the enemy commander in Kajo Kaji not to expect any help from Yei or Juba as the routes leading to Kajo Kaji have permanently been blocked. He, however, assured the enemy commander and his soldiers of safety in the SPLA if they surrender themselves or if they chose to go, a safe passage will be provided for them.

Kuwait

Minister Says Criticism 'Must Be Constructive'

JN031643 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English
2 Mar 88 pp 1, 4

[Text] Kuwait's Information Minister Shaykh Jabir Mubarak al-Hamad has said that he does not want Kuwait's press to become, intentionally or unintentionally, "containers of poison for some regional or international parties."

Shaykh Jabir Mubarak was speaking to editors-in-chief of local newspapers at a meeting yesterday.

He said a decision to close down a newspaper, even if it's for one day, would be a most difficult one for him to take.

But, he stressed that he would not hesitate to close a newspaper if he felt for a moment there was something against the interest of the country or its relations, or against the safety of citizens.

He said: "Duty is above a man's likes or dislikes, and the interests of the country and people always above all considerations. "We want a press that unites and protects the nation." [quotation marks as published]

He added he is frankly looking forward to the day when there will be no need for censors and each newspaper will be self-censored.

He said: "Any criticism of any government or private sides must be constructive and based on facts and not on mere rumours.

"It will be very difficult to remove the effects of news based on rumours or intended at harming some sides."

He pointed out that sensationalism in journalism in the long run undermined the credibility of the media.

He said that reports or articles that created confusion inside Kuwait's society should not be published.

"This does not aim at restricting the freedom of the press," he said, adding, "any personal freedom outside the framework of the homeland had no value whatsoever."

Shaykh Jabir Mubarak said he expected the press, the Fourth Estate, to use its authority in serving the issues of the society and political system which did not distinguish between people and rulers.

"If the press did not adopt matters within this concept it would be the first to be harmed because it is originally one of the fruits of this system and achieved what it achieved within this framework," he said.

"The press is a two-sided weapon and one should use the proper side to deal with a particular issue."

The minister told the editors that they were dealing with the most sensitive media, because the written word was more effective than the spoken one. He said people could read newspapers whenever they wanted.

He reminded the whole world was passing through complicated political and fluctuating economic situations and the Arab world was influenced by these developments, particularly the Gulf area, which was also being influenced by the results of a destructive war.

Shaykh Jabir Mubarak told the editors that, being the sons of this land, it was understandable that they would support every good effort made in the interest of the country and citizens.

He hoped that the editors will create a public opinion towards any issue offered within this framework, whether political, economic, social, or educational.

The acting Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad also met the chief editors.

PDRY

PRC Official, Delegation Arrive in Aden

EA032258 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Excerpt] A CPC delegation, led by Comrade Li Ziqi, member of the CPC Central Committee and secretary of the committee of the party organization of Gansu Province, arrived in Aden this afternoon on a visit to our country lasting several days.

In a statement to ANA, Comrade Li Ziqi said his visit to our country is aimed at exchanging views on questions of common interest and discussing relations of cooperation between the YSP and the CPC, in addition to developing and consolidating relations between them in the interests of the two friendly peoples.

At the end of his statement, he wished Democratic Yemen progress and the Yemeni people continued development and prosperity in building their new life. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

PRC Delegation Departs After 1-Week Visit

JN031836 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Li Ziqi, CPC Central Committee member and secretary of the Gansu Provincial Chinese Communist Party Committee in the PRC, and his delegation left Sanaa this afternoon following a 1-week visit to our country during which he held talks with the brother officials in the General People's Congress dealing with promoting cooperation between the two organizations in both countries, as well as with international issues of mutual interest.

In a statement to 'SABA', the Chinese official described his visit to our country as successful and fruitful.

He said the talks he and his delegation held during the visit dealt with all issues of interest to both countries. He said bilateral relations between the two organizations will witness tangible progress in the interest of both friendly peoples and countries during the coming years.

He expressed admiration for our country's progress in political, economic, and constructional fields.

He said his visits to a number of the Republic's provinces have enabled him and his delegation to become acquainted with the development achievements and with the historic and tourist sites in our country.

Concluding his statement, Li expressed his thanks to our country and brother officials in the General People's Congress for their generosity and hospitality.

The delegation was seen off by Brothers Ahmad al-'Imad, assistant secretary of the Standing Committee; Ahmad al-Tayyib, under secretary of the Ministry of Municipalities and Housing and Standing Committee member; a number of officials; and the Chinese charge d'affaires in Sanaa.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique Sums Up Strikes

JN031748 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1700 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Communique No 3,046 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 3 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We had to prove to our enemies that they are dwarfs in confronting this lofty edifice, creative mind, and these strong arms. We also had to prove to them that a number of missiles supplied to them by the nation's enemies mean nothing in the face of Iraqi creativeness and what has been achieved by the minds and hands of men enlightened by their leader's instructions, and who comprehended his lessons.

Thus, we relied on God and inflicted on the enemies a bitter defeat in the cities war which they ignited. In implementation of our inalienable right and duty of devastating deterrence as a result of their continuous aggressions against our cities and villages, and with the splendid, persistent effort exerted by the struggling men of the military industries and by the heroic fighters of our missile force, the following strikes were carried out with the Al-Husayn missiles at the dens of vice, evil, charlatanism, and jugglery between 2000 [1700 GMT] yesterday and 2000 [1700 GMT] today—the strikes which were mentioned in the military spokesman's statements:

1. At 2130 yesterday, one of the Al-Husayn missiles was launched at Tehran.
2. At 2400 yesterday, another Al-Husayn missile was launched at Tehran, the capital of charlatans.
3. At 0300 today, a third missile from Al-Husayn missiles was fired at Tehran.
4. At 0830 today, a fourth Al-Husayn missile was fired at Tehran, the capital of charlatans.
5. At 0911 today, one of the Al-Husayn missiles was fired at the center of Khomeyniite charlatanism and jugglery, Qom.

Thus, lofty Iraq proves that it is always capable of teaching the criminal aggressors good lessons on the importance of respecting our people's sovereignty and security. With God's help, we will continue to destroy the dens of vice and evil in their capital, Tehran, and in all their cities until they stop their aggression and learn from their bitter experience.

Praise be to all honest and persistent efforts by the struggling men of the military industries and the brave men of our missile force. Praise be to God for His victory.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 3 March 1988

Communique No 3,047

JN031835 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1705 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Communique No 3,047 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 3 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Every day our brave Armed Forces become stronger to protect the rights and their owners, to defeat falsehood and its owners, and to destroy all intentions of crime and aggression of God's and Iraq's enemies, the Zionist Khomeyniites. The following is the results of our Armed Forces' activities for last night and today:

1. Our heroic Air Force aircraft today carried out the following two missions:

a. At 1122 [0822 GMT] today, our planes launched a violent raid on the city of Shiraz, which is more than 480 km from our international border. Our hawks managed to penetrate enemy defenses, pounding their targets and setting them ablaze.

b. At 1154 today, our planes launched a devastating raid on the city of Dezful, pounding their targets and setting them ablaze.

After carrying out these two missions, all our planes returned safely to base, praise be to God. God bless our heroic Air Force—command, hawks, officers, and other ranks.

2. In the I Army Corps northern sector, one of our units attacked an enemy group, killing 20 scoundrels. In another area in the same sector, 25 enemy soldiers were killed, 3 large vehicles were destroyed, and 1 ammunition dump was blown up.

3. In the Special I Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akbar Forces—one scoundrel was killed and one machinegun emplacement and one infantry position were destroyed.

4. In the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan, one enemy soldier was killed and one machinegun was destroyed.

5. In the VII Army Corps sector, three machineguns and one infantry position were destroyed.

6. The heroic Al-Amiq port force foiled an attempt by eight enemy boats to approach the port, forcing them to flee.

7. The Iranian enemy launched three missiles supplied to it by the nation's enemies at our glorious capital, Baghdad. The first was launched at 0625 [0325 GMT] today; the second at 1330 today; and the third at 1815 today. The three missiles landed in residential areas, martyring and wounding a number of civilians, including women and children. Civilian property, shops, and cars were also damaged.

The criminal enemy also shelled residential areas in Basra, Al-Qurnah, Khanagin, Badrah, and Qazanyah. As a result, a number of civilians, including women and children, were martyred and wounded. Civilian property was also damaged. Mercy and forgiveness for our martyrs and a swift recovery for our wounded.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 3 March 1988

20th Strike Hits Tehran

JN04/1113 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1050 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 4 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. May God not have mercy on the Tehran rulers, and we hope He will pour His wrath on them. They do not know their proper value and have acted with impudence and vanity. They have transgressed what God has ordained with their insistence on this war. They also disavowed all human values and international laws by striking at residential areas killing women, the elderly, and children. They then impudently rejected the UN Security Council resolution calling for the establishment of peace, abstained from implementing it in accordance with the sequence of its operative provisions, and ignited the war of cities.

To deter these tyrants and to protect the safety of our citizens, the 20th strike with the Al-Husayn missiles was dealt against the city of Tehran at 1340 [1040 GMT] today.

May God bless all those who devised this achievement, all those who planned, produced, and assisted in it. They all have been inspired by the genius of our leader, may God protect him, and have been guided by his sound directives. They are the best loyal guardians of their homeland.

[Dated] 4 March 1988

Baghdad Evacuation Exercises

JN04/1142 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1110 GMT
4 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Mar (INA)—An exercise to evacuate citizens from two residential areas in Baghdad was carried out with unprecedented success this morning. Comrade Sa'di Mahdi Salih, Ba'ath Party Regional Command member and official in charge of the Baghdad organizations office, said that the evacuation operation and the return of the citizens to their homes lasted less than 2 hours.

In a statement to INA, he said that similar exercises will be carried out in other areas in the future in light of the results of today's exercise.

Basra Shelled, Casualties

JN04/1147 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1120 GMT
4 Mar 88

[Text] Basra, 4 Mar (INA)—The INA correspondent in Basra has stated that the Iranians, using long-range artillery, resumed their shelling of Basra residential quarters throughout last night and today. The correspondent added that as a result of the enemy shelling several children and women were martyred and other citizens were wounded. The shelling also demolished several houses and shops and damaged civilian cars.

Iranian Missile Hits Baghdad

JN04/1515 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1457 GMT
4 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Mar (INA)—At 1655 [1355 GMT] today Iran fired a missile on a residential quarter in Baghdad.

The military spokesman informed INA that a number of people, including women and children, were martyred and wounded as a result of the missile attack, which damaged houses and commercial establishments. Other civilian property was also affected by the missile attack.

The military spokesman warned the Iranian rulers that they will be dealt additional painful blows by our missiles and Air Force throughout the day and during the night in revenge for the perpetration of this crime.

21st Strike on Iran Reported

JN04/1529 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1447 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 4 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The rulers of Iran, bent on pursuing the war and rejecting the international community's consensus on the need to terminate it, and UN Security Council Resolution No. 598, whose sequential implementation would provide a solid foundation for peace and create positive climates for each people to live on their own soil and use their resources for development, not only scorn peace but also continue to bombard population centers in our eternal capital Baghdad, in Basra, and a number of other Iraqi cities and villages. In order for these rulers to receive their just deserts through strong, crushing blows, our heroic missile force executed the 21st strike with Al-Husayn missiles. One of our missiles was fired at Tehran at 1730 [1430 GMT] today.

May God bless our men who are jealously guarding their land and homeland—men of the heavy industries and our missile force. Thanks be to Him.

[Dated] 4 March 1988

Awqaf Minister Departs for Islamic Conference
JN030942 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0845 GMT
3 Mar 88

[[Text]] Baghdad, 3 Mar (INA)—Awqaf and Religious Affairs Minister Abdallah Fadil left Baghdad for Cairo this morning, leading a delegation to participate in the Islamic Call research conference which will begin work in Cairo tomorrow.

The conference will discuss Islamic call affairs in the world, the serious challenges facing Arabs and Muslims, ways to confront the subversive course to fragment Muslims' unity being followed by the Khomeyni regime, and the serious work to expose this regime and dismiss it from Islamic action forums. The conference will also discuss the savage

methods and practices the Zionist authorities are using against the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied Arab territories and measures to back and support the Palestinian people's uprising.

Prior to his departure, the awqaf minister told INA that the Iraqi delegation will present to the conference a number of reports focusing on ways to confront the Iranian rulers' tortuous methods and fabrications aimed at harming Islamic teachings. The researches also deal with the role of the popular and Islamic organizations in exposing these subversive methods to maintain the unity of Muslims.

It is noteworthy that the conference is held in implementation of the recommendations adopted by the world conference on Prophet Muhammad's history and traditions, which was held in Cairo in 1985.

Peace Conference Linked to Soviet Ties Renewal
TA031717 Tel Aviv MA/ARIV in Hebrew
3 Mar/88 p. A 2

[Report by Arye Bender]

[[Text]] Shimon Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, confirmed last night for the first time reports that the Soviet Union plans to renew diplomatic relations with Israel on the day that the international conference convenes with its participation.

Referring to the Jordan-Palestinian delegation, Peres said: "We should leave the issue of the representation to the Arabs. Let us not complicate the situation too much. Why should we get involved in that problem. What we do not want to see there are people belonging to the PLO. We do not censure the positions of the members of the delegation, but only their pockets, to make sure they do not contain bombs and knives."

Shultz Returns To Hold Talks on Peace Process

Peres Welcomes Move

TA031825 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1705 GMT 3 Mar/88

[[Text]] Shimon Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, today welcomed U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' decision to return to our region. Addressing journalists at the Tel Aviv Press Club, Peres expressed regret over the fact that the peace process is being revived now rather than 11 year ago. Our correspondent Dan Eshel reports on the foreign minister's remarks:

[[Begin recording]] [[Eshel]] Peres said the peace process could have been revived 11 year ago, except that at that time, without informing me, Yitzhak Shamir sent Moshe Arens to Shultz to tell him not to come.

[[Peres]] I think Mr Shultz is aware of the difficulties, although so far everyone has been very careful not to tell him about them in so many words. Therefore, the number of those who did not say no to him is almost equal to the number of those who did not say yes. I believe that the opportunity has been created to pursue a peace process, and I am very sorry that this was not done 11 year ago under better and more convenient conditions for the state of Israel and the entire region. Had we done this in April or May last year, I think we would have spared ourselves many disturbances and troubles.

Hence, I would like to express my appreciation over the fact that he is returning to the region tomorrow. For my part—and I believe many other people will follow suit—I will do everything I can so that his mission succeeds, in view of the alternative or the lack of one which would be hard on all of us.

[[Eshel]] Shimon Peres was asked about the possibility that the Labor Party may quit the government. In this context, he was asked to estimate the support the Alignment would muster if elections were held today. Nobody knows the answer, Peres said.

[[Peres]] The overwhelming majority has not yet made up its mind. I know the Israeli voter, to the extent that one may know him. What does the Israeli voter say? He says territories should not be given up and Arabs should not be annexed, but he cannot make up his mind between the two. How can territories be annexed without annexing the population? That does not work. [[end recording]]

Jordanian Stand 'Radical'

TA031831 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1800 GMT 3 Mar/88

[[Text]] Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir says he expects to hear tomorrow from the U.S. secretary of state what came out of his talks with Jordan's King Husayn. Mr Shamir's impression is that Jordan has considerably radicalized its position and attributes this development to Syria's influence.

Our correspondent Gidon Remez reports that the prime minister made these remarks this evening to the chairman of the Italian Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee. The guest, a member of the Christian Democratic Party, emphasized his concern about Israel's negative image in the media. According to him, even when the story is distorted the image becomes substance, and Israel should give thought to this matter.

Shamir Says Talks 'Promising'

TA040900 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT
4 Mar/88

[[Text]] A friendly, useful, and promising conversation—this is how Shamir and Shultz described their meeting this morning which ended a short time ago. Our political correspondent Oz Frankel reports from the prime minister's office:

Some 30 minutes of the 24-hour talk between Shultz and Shamir were in private. The U.S. secretary reported on his meetings with King Husayn in London. Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, said Secretary Shultz presented the U.S. positions on furthering the peace process, and heard the Israeli positions on the same issue. These are the details we have so far. We still do not have additional details on the contents of the talks. At the conclusion of the extended talk, the prime minister and the U.S. secretary appeared before journalists. Here is what they said:

[[Begin recording]] [[Shamir, in English]] It's a real pleasure to have the secretary of state here with us. Our talk was very friendly, very useful, and promising. I hope, I'm sure, we will continue our efforts for getting peace in the area.

[[Shultz]] I agree fully and wholeheartedly with everything the prime minister just said. [[end recording]]

[Frankel] By the way, both reiterated almost word for word the remarks they made after their first meeting last Friday. At the conclusion of the talk both Shultz and Shamir were smiling and joking, which might reflect the content of the talk as well.

The prime minister's media adviser said that both men agreed that the talks and contacts would continue in Washington during the prime minister's visit there in 11 and 11/2 weeks.

Shultz is now meeting with Vice Prime Minister Shimon Peres in his office.

In the afternoon, Shultz will leave for a short round of talks in Damascus and Cairo.

Peres on 'Great Efforts' Made

TA04U135 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
11105 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Interview with Vice Prime Minister Shimon Peres by political correspondent Oded Ben-Ami following his 4 March meeting with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Peres] All I can say is that the secretary of state has made a supreme physical, intellectual, and political effort to preserve the peace process as a living process. I believe that the United States has raised very interesting ideas while making great efforts to take into consideration the desires and fears of the two sides. I believe Shultz is leaving in our hands material and food for thought and action for the next few days, and it is our duty to do everything to further the peace process.

Time is running out, and whoever does not want peace can kill it in a very short period of time. He who wants the peace process, however, can further it at a considerable pace.

[Ben-Ami] Mr Peres, at the end of this round of talks, can you now say that progress in the initiative was made in comparison to the beginning of Mr Shultz' trip?

[Peres] I think so.

[Ben-Ami] Can you be more specific? In what sense was progress made?

[Peres] No, I do not think I can go into details because the nature of the talks requires us to be as discreet as possible in giving information.

[Ben-Ami] Have you determined any technique of continuing the dialogue with the secretary on the issue of the initiative?

[Peres] The technique is self-evident.

U.S. 'Demanding' Answer

TA04U147 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
11100 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] The U.S. Administration is demanding from the government of Israel an unequivocal answer on its peace proposals by 15 March, when the prime minister will be in Washington. Our correspondent Oded Ben-Ami reports that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz today presented his proposals as an official document of the U.S. Administration.

The document contains three main clauses: First, an international opening to the negotiations according to the Husayn-Peres formula of April 1987. Second, an immediate start to direct negotiations between Israel and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. The third clause deals with negotiations on an interim settlement, which will continue for 6 months. Immediately on its conclusion, the implementation of the settlement will begin.

The talks on a permanent settlement will begin in December. To repeat, the U.S. Administration is demanding an unequivocal answer to Shultz' proposal by 15 March.

The Inner Cabinet will convene on Sunday, immediately after the Cabinet session, to discuss the Shultz document.

Vice Prime Minister Shimon Peres told our correspondent that he sees an advance in the peace process between the start of the talks with the U.S. secretary of state and their end. Shultz leaves Ben Gurion airport at noon for Damascus, and later will fly to Cairo. From Cairo he will fly to Washington.

Herut Activists Reject Document

TA04U1428 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
11400 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] Activists and heads of branches of the Herut Movement, mostly from the David Levi camp in the movement, call on the prime minister to reject the Shultz plan, and if necessary, to cancel his planned trip to Washington in about 10 days.

Our correspondent Razi Barqay reports that these activists intend to meet this coming Sunday in order to consolidate their demands. This is the first reaction within the Herut Movement to the document Shultz submitted to the Israeli Government today.

Al-Shawwa Rejects Meeting

TA032013 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
2000 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Minister Wioshe Shihai met today in Gaza with Rashad al-Shawwa in a bid to persuade him to confer with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. Nevertheless, at the end of the meeting, Al-Shawwa said he rejected

Shahal's plea because the U.S. plan does not contain anything new. Al-Shawwa is one of the 115 Palestinians who were invited for a meeting with the U.S. secretary of state last weekend.

Bomb Dismantled by Shultz Hotel

TA040929 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0900 GMT 4 Mar 88

[[Text]] A car bomb was dismantled in Jerusalem this morning without causing any damage. Jerusalem police bomb disposal experts neutralized a car bomb near the Center-1 commercial center in Jerusalem. The car, a Renault 4, was found abandoned at a crossroads after its driver crashed into an electricity pole. Dozens of kilograms of explosives were found in the car.

Deputy Commander Yosef Yehudati, commander of the Jerusalem police, told our correspondent Moti Amir that the vehicle was discovered by accident. He said the chief Israeli police bomb disposal expert, who was passing by, became suspicious of the car, which led to the discovery of the car bomb.

Deputy Commander Yehudati believes the aim of the terrorists was to carry out a major attack in a highly populated area, in protest at the visit by Secretary of State George Shultz. The secretary of state is being put up at the Hilton Hotel, not far from where the car bomb was discovered.

Deputy Commander Yehudati stresses that a major disaster was averted this morning. Jerusalem Police and security forces are carrying out an intensive investigation to find those involved in preparing the car bomb. Nobody has been arrested so far.

The Israeli police calls on the public to be alert and to inform the police whenever their suspicions are aroused or a suspicious object is found.

MK Meridor on Peace Plan

TA031106 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT
3 Mar 88

[[Interview with Knesset Member (MK) Dan Meridor by Mikha Friedman and Yael Dan—live]]

[[Text]] [[Friedman]] Our first guest this morning is MK Dan Meridor. Good morning to you.

[[Meridor]] Good morning.

[[Friedman]] You won't be angry if we term you as the prime minister's associate?

[[Meridor]] Call me whatever you want.

[[Friedman]] The draft document of the U.S. proposal for solving the Middle East conflict, which Shultz has presented to Shamir, apparently embraces mainly the positions presented by Husayn, with Israel being the party asked to

change its positions. So practically speaking, the United States has positioned itself on the same side as Husayn and Peres. This creates a serious problem for Yitzhak Shamir.

[[Meridor]] If it indeed transpires that the United States accepts the position of the Arab king, this will certainly create problems—not for Yitzhak Shamir, but for Israel. I sincerely hope this is not the case.

[[Friedman]] Don't you think that this is the situation, at least at present? You are probably aware of the draft document.

[[Meridor]] My impression is that Secretary Shultz was here recently, before he flew to the Arab countries, and he received the clear position of the Israeli Government and the Israeli prime minister. He is aware of our position regarding various proposals that have been raised. He clearly knows that we will not go to an international conference that will [word indistinct] the negotiations. I assume that when he assessed the situation later, and also when he spoke with the President, he understood that the Middle East conflict has two sides, not only one.

Therefore, I hope that when he returns here tonight and when he meets the prime minister tomorrow he will bring with him things which both sides in the Middle East can accept—Israel as well. This is also a side here. If this does not happen, there will be a disagreement.

[[Friedman]] It has been reported that Yitzhak Shamir will apparently be ready to agree to the participation of the two superpowers—the United States and the Soviet Union—in the opening meeting of the negotiations. If he agrees to two, why should he mind five?

[[Meridor]] The problem is not the numbers of two or five. Last October Secretary Shultz asked the prime minister to accept a formula similar to the one you just mentioned. The prime minister accepted, after discussions lasting several days. The secretary then went to the king, who said it was out of the question. He said he does not want an opening, rather an ongoing conference. So there is a profound difference not only in numbers, but also regarding the essence of the conference. We never received a proposal for only an international opening—there was only an internal Israeli attempt at deception in that direction.

The Arabs have always proposed a full-fledged conference. It is true that in no formula regarding the conference is it written that it [the conference] will enforce a solution. And here too it will undoubtedly not force a solution. It will only explain things to us and make decisions. We will decide whether we want to accept a decision of all the superpowers and all the Arabs, with us isolated there. Therefore, I suggest that we drop the illusions. We must decide whether we want an international conference or direct negotiations. The two things cannot exist together.

[[Friedman]] You are leading us to the spirit of the London agreement of last April between Peres and Husayn. It looks as though the United States accepts this clause of the agreement. How can you get them down from this limb?

[Meridor] I hope that the United States has not gone out on a limb and I hope that I do not have to get it down. I only want to say that the London agreement also centered around this problem. We must understand that we have to decide between two alternatives, and it is difficult to find the middle road.

(One alternative is for Husayn to show willingness to enter negotiations in which he will have to take risks—we, too, are taking considerable risks in the negotiations—in which case the chances of reaching an agreement are good. The other alternative is for Husayn to insist on bringing along all the parties he feels threatened by—Syria and the PLO, and the Soviet Union, which backs them—in which case we will not be facing King Husayn, but rather the entire Arab League, with the Arab consensus and all the countries in the world.

I ask you: Is this logical? If we look not only at the opening evening—at what the Jordanian prime minister called the photo opportunity—but rather at the entire process, we are faced with a very serious issue which demands that we ask ourselves where all of this is leading us.

[Friedman] There are other questions as well. Husayn is asking the Americans, who in turn ask Shamir, how he will resolve the contradiction between his willingness to accept 242 as the basis for negotiations—a decision which clearly mentions a withdrawal from the territories—and the Likud policy of not withdrawing from any territory. What is Shamir's answer?

[Meridor] First, you know that Jews answer a question with a question. My question is just as good: Two weeks ago the Jordanian prime minister said in the British *THE TIMES* newspaper that the territories—as he calls them—are not negotiable, not even 1 meter of Judea, Samaria, Gaza, and especially not Jerusalem. How can you explain the contradiction—if there is one—between Husayn's desire for negotiations and his remark about not giving up even 1 meter?

Apparently there is a difference between a willingness to enter negotiations and the positions presented in the negotiations. In the Camp David Accords, which the Israeli Government signed and to which this government remains committed, we said that we were willing to discuss the status of the territories of Judea, Samaria, and Gaza after the 3d year, etc. We certainly agree to negotiations, just as is written in the Camp David Accords. There is nothing new here. The fact that we are willing to discuss this, however, does not mean that we do not have positions. Our position is that these territories should be ours. Their position is the opposite. That is why we must negotiate.

[Friedman] You are pointing us in the direction of the Camp David Accords. But, if I remember correctly, Jordan is not a party to this agreement. The coalition agreement between the Likud and the Alignment states that Israel will make every possible effort to bring about negotiations without preconditions. So why shove the Camp David Accords in Husayn's face?

[Meridor] I suggest that we recall what is written in the coalition agreement. The term without preconditions does not appear there even once, and this is not by chance. This,

however, is not very important. The important thing is that we are open to negotiations with King Husayn. If he wants to come tomorrow, let him. By the way, if Husayn were to come and tell us that he wants to enter direct negotiations with us without preconditions, I would not hesitate for a moment and would sit down to negotiate with him.

The only problem is that the king is not saying this. He is saying something completely different. He is saying that he has conditions: First, he will not come to negotiate without Syria. Second, he will not come without the PLO, the Soviet Union, and all the other members of the Security Council. Then he says that he has no problems. All we have to do is to speak with these other parties, wrap things up with Syria, the PLO, and the Soviet Union, and then he will be satisfied. Is this what one would call negotiations without preconditions?

[Friedman] Seeing that the negotiations are not between you and me, but rather between us and Jordan, with the United States in the middle though apparently a little closer to Jordan, and seeing that Shamir in his recent media appearances seems quite smug, how long will he be able to hide the fact that essentially he is rejecting almost everything that Jordan is demanding and that the United States is willing to accept?

[Meridor] First, I do not know what you mean by the terms smug and essentially. Let me say, however, that so far—and contrary to the picture people are trying to create—the prime minister has welcomed the United States' and Shultz' desire to further the peace process, and to date it is he who has given the green light to various U.S. moves, whereas the Arab positions we are constantly hearing are a stubborn and unceasing reiteration of the Soviet-Arab concept of the international conference.

People in Israel are trying to reverse this picture, but if we forget the politics and look at the facts we see that this is how things stand. Second, I suggest that we do not make light of the Camp David Accords. It is true that Jordan is not a signatory to them, but let us not forget that any agreement signed with the Jordanians 1 month, 1 year, or 5 years from now—whenever there are peace negotiations with them—will contain Jordanian and U.S. commitments.

If what we want to teach the Jordanians and all the other Arabs today is that in a treaty with Israel, only those clauses that speak of an Israeli withdrawal or Israeli concessions hold, while other commitments need not be honored, then I suggest that we forget about Camp David and say that it has no meaning at all. Otherwise the United States is bound to it.

We paid a heavy price for it. Egypt is also bound to it. Husayn is certainly not bound by it, but he also cannot come and say that he wants to talk with us, but has many conditions and is not willing to talk with us alone, and then complain that we are not willing to accept such a legitimate demand. I only want an international conference; I only want Soviet participation; I only want a prior commitment on your part to withdraw from all of Judea, Samaria, and Jerusalem. Then Yitzhak Shamir will be accused of not

saying yes to such a generous offer. In my opinion, our national interests and common sense oblige us to see things in a more balanced way, because we are speaking here about crucial issues for Israel.

[Friedman] WK Meridor, one last question before we end this interview. Do you believe that Shultz will succeed in his upcoming visit?

[Meridor] I, like many other people, do not know. I sincerely hope that Secretary Shultz will bring a proposal that we, Israel, can live with and that will provide a basis for us to maintain free negotiations with chances of success. If this happens, he will succeed in his mission. I sincerely hope that he will not come with a proposal that amounts to an acceptance of the positions of the Arabs, the Soviets, and several people in Israel.

[Friedman] WK Meridor, all we can say is let this be a happy Purim for all of us.

[Meridor] Happy Purim to everybody.

Further Media Comments on U.S. Peace Initiative

Positive Response Urged

TA031534 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 3 Mar 88 p 2

[Editorial: "The Return of Shultz"]

[Text] George Shultz is coming back. His return for a repeat shuttle among the capitals of the region prior to flying back to Washington is seen as good news by those who still have faith in the political process and want it to continue. As is known, not everyone has that faith.

Shultz is returning to the region because he believes there is a ray of hope for promoting the political process. He may be right. He may hold the key to the beginning of a dialogue between Israel and Jordan and a Palestinian delegation. Faith does not cost money, and Shultz has faith that under Yitzhak Shamir's and King Hussein's rigid armor hides a sincere desire for a political agreement.

The moment Shultz leaves the region, the phase of questions, clarifications, and message exchanges will end, and the phase of answers will begin. Will the aides, Shamir and Husayn in particular, accept the U.S. initiative en bloc? Will they reject it?

Shamir's situation is particularly tough. He will have to give a decisive answer in Washington, during his upcoming visit there in the middle of the month. An Israeli "no" might cast him as a peace saboteur and might be perceived as one of the direct reasons for our crushed image.

A positive, albeit partial, response will give way to a glimmer of hope, may prevent a serious crisis, and spare the need to rush the elections. It seems that such a rush is meant to kill the Shultz initiative, no less.

As long as there is a chance of pursuing the political process—with a friend like Shultz and a sympathetic president like Reagan—Shamir must make every possible effort to seek and find a formula that will enable the process to go on. After Reagan this will be harder. Holding elections now, in order to shun a political decision, is tantamount to evading reality. Reality will not change the day after the show of force in the ballot boxes, but will even worsen.

Leaders "Assessing" Plan

TA021848 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic
2 Mar 88 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Will They Laugh at You Twice Mr Shultz?"]

[Text] A series of signs have appeared in the Israeli arena indicating that the Israeli leadership has begun to play the funeral march for Shultz' initiative.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has been saying that what the Israeli foreign minister is asking Israel to do will lead to its destruction.

Dov Shilansky, chairman of the Knesset Interior Committee, has proposed to the Americans a "practical solution" to the Arab-Israeli conflict. A solution represented by a "concession" by Israel of part of Palestine, that is the East Bank, for the establishment of a Palestinian state.

And Ariel Sharon has been calling again for a return to his methods in order to resolve the Palestinian problem and suppress popular fury—the methods of repression, deportation, and Judaization.

The Labor and Likud parties began talks two days ago to reach agreement on a new date for elections somewhere between May, as demanded by the Labor Party, and July as proposed by the Likud.

The political meaning of these Israeli indications is but one thing, namely, turning George Shultz into a new American Don Quixote.

In short, the Israelis have decided to make a fool out of the U.S. Administration by thwarting the efforts of the U.S. secretary of state. It is the same situation as when they laughed at Shultz when they misled him into believing that Syria was not and should not be a party to the stillborn agreement, which took on the name of the 15 May agreement in the political graveyard.

Now the Israelis have begun playing the symphony of George Shultz' failure by hinting that the Palestinians refuse to meet with him, therefore they reject peace. This despite the fact that the Palestinians have declared in a very clear voice that they are ready to meet with the U.S. secretary of state in any place on earth except the occupied territories. When the Palestinians accepted the principle of meeting with the U.S. secretary outside the occupied land they only meant to confirm the unity of the Palestinian position and the desire to achieve a just peace.

If George Shultz wants to return to the Middle East region, he must read the Israeli writing on the wall and become acquainted with the reality of Israeli methods in assassinating peace initiatives.

The U.S. secretary of state would be very naive if he were to allow the Israelis to laugh at him twice. It would be tragic for George Shultz, the man, to join the statues of failure—statues produced by Israel which these days are squatting in the consulting offices of oil companies and in international and public relations agencies.

U.S. Must Face 'Realities'

TA05D630 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic
3 Mar 88 p 1

[Editorial: "The Returning U.S. Shuttle"]

[Text] All the parties in the region who met with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz did not give a definite response, by a "yes" or "no," to his ideas and proposals. This left the American door wide open, or more precisely, all the Arab and Israeli doors, equally, wide open to the U.S. shuttle at all times and in every form.

Therefore, with the background prepared by the region's capitals through their practical inability to reject the U.S. Administration's ideas and proposals, news agencies are talking about the return of George Shultz on another shuttle trip in the context of reportedly concluding his talks on one hand, and possibly meeting with some Palestinian figures on the other.

After meeting with Jordanian King Hussein in London, Shultz was cited as saying that he intended during the coming few weeks to "release a detailed U.S. plan for a political solution in the Middle East that would obligate the parties concerned to make decisive decisions."

First, this means that the U.S. Administration is exploiting the open doors in the region's capitals to signal, on one hand, that the U.S. initiative has not failed, and on the other hand that this administration will continue to market its initiative step by step. Second, this signifies that the Reagan administration is keen on continuing its game of supporting the Israeli Government by hinting of a "detailed plan" that it intends to propose shortly to the parties concerned. This support, the U.S. Administration imagines, will reflect on the uprising in the occupied territories.

In any case, we do not believe that the next U.S. plan will transcend the ideas and proposals that Secretary of State George Shultz had previously put forward. We think that this plan will ultimately achieve nothing, against the background of the ongoing events, except the mixed words of "yes" and "no" by both the Arab and Israeli sides. These words cannot advance the region to any kind of peace.

Achievement of the right word or the correct position cannot materialize except by facing the realities of the Palestinian problem. Will the U.S. plan be able at least to face the minimum of these realities? Or will it, as it has shown so far, continue to gain time? This gain is negative

and against the interest of peace, achieved through inspired and traditional ideas and proposals that are empty of the content of a comprehensive and just peace.

'Fundamental Change' Needed

TA05D708 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic
3 Mar 88 pp 1, 8

[Editorial: "Shultz and the Second Half of the Game"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz ended the first half of a game, whose rules were formulated in Washington, without being able to score any goal in the Arab net. The ball now is back on the turf of the United States, which is unable to proceed with its game according to the same old rules which can no longer respond to the new circumstances and realities in the region.

This necessarily calls for a fundamental change in U.S. insight, which is formulated under the concept of control, domination, and disavowal of the rights of nations in an age in which the principles of freedom prevail and domination and subjugation of nations have passed away.

Moreover, the U.S. change is necessary not only in order to be harmonious with Palestinian and Arab plans and principles that were made known to Shultz during his tour of the region, but also with international laws and decrees issued by the United Nations. The United States is one of the UN's permanent member states and should respect the principles and charters of this organization.

After Secretary Shultz presented a full report on his talks in the region to President Reagan, who is attending the NATO meetings in Brussels, he decided to begin the second half of the game after acknowledging the failure of his first trip. It is expected that Shultz will arrive this evening in Israel to hold talks with the two heads of its government. Later he will head for Cairo, where he will meet with Egyptian officials who have already informed Shultz of their refusal to deal with his old ideas since they are incapable of addressing the outstanding circumstances and realities in the region.

Before beginning the second half, Shultz who is the player that lost bitterly in the first half of the game, must realize that he will not be able to score and accomplish his mission as long as he persists in not seeing the new realities and as long as he continues to see the stubborn reality through Israeli eyes.

Prior to embarking on the second half of the game, Shultz must reassess his calculations, organize his mangled cards, and prepare a scenario in which there would be a clear and prominent role for the Security Council's five permanent member states and the parties to the conflict, including the PLO, without consideration for the intransigent Israeli position, which rejects the will of international authority.

This is the only way to a just, durable, and comprehensive peace for all the nations of the region. Otherwise, neither interim settlements, nor separate deals, nor partial solutions will be able to secure prosperity, security, and peace for the region's peoples.

Is Shultz aware of this reality?

SHAS Party Leader Advocates Talks With PLO
TA031424 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 3 Mar 88 p 2

[Text] Israel should negotiate with the PLO in order to prevent bloodshed, according to the SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] party's spiritual leader, Rabbi Eliezer Shach.

In today's edition of YEREV SHABAT, Shach is quoted as saying that, if it is possible to reach a peace agreement, Israel should not be held back by past pronouncements that it will not speak with the PLO. The ultra-Orthodox rabbi made the statement in answer to a question from one of his followers.

Shach reportedly based his opinion on historical examples of how Jewish leaders in the Diaspora sat down with their bitterest enemies at times when the Jews were in distress.

Car Blast Considered 'Terrorist Action'
TA031134 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1100 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] There was an explosion a short time ago in a vehicle parked opposite the Kefar Sava central bus station. Nobody was hurt. The police closed off the area, as the blast is believed to have been a terrorist action.

IDF Not To Prosecute Minor 'Irregularities'
TA031757 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT
3 Mar 88

[Text] We read in the newspapers today that the IDF has decided that only the most serious irregularities, such as the bulldozer affair in which four Arabs were buried alive, will be prosecuted. We are going to discuss this with Brigadier General Amnon Strassnoff, the military judge advocate.

[Goni Savir] Good evening, sir.

[Strassnoff] Good evening.

[Savir] How will you decide what is a minor and what is a major irregularity?

[Strassnoff] Each instance, and the circumstances which caused it, will have to be studied, just like in other fields. In principle, the great majority of cases have already been dealt with or are being dealt with by the unit commanders. The latter take disciplinary action, prosecute, transfer the person from the unit, or demote him.

When complaints about grave irregularities such as beatings and clearly unreasonable violence—such as forced entry into houses and damage to property—are referred to the military judge advocate's office or senior commanders, we first of all order an inquiry. After receiving the findings of the inquiry we decide on which measures to take.

[Savir] So far you have compared an irregularity to an offense, but an offense is clearly defined by law whereas an irregularity, especially its graveness, is chargeable. Irregularities can become the norm.

[Strassnoff] Clear guidelines for what is a minor or a major irregularity cannot be fixed, each case will have to be judged on its merits, just as a grave or a minor offense cannot be judged a priori.

[Savir] Is it so hard to define? The bulldozer incident, for example, was an irregularity.

[Strassnoff] The bulldozer affair was a clear irregularity. The case of the four soldiers and the officer who beat up the two Arabs after they were already in our charge as shown on the CBS film is certainly an exceptional irregularity.

[Savir] Brig Gen Strassnoff, do you not fear that such exceptional irregularities will provide legitimacy for so-called minor irregularities?

[Strassnoff] Certainly not. Those relatively—or absolutely—minor irregularities will also be treated with disciplinary actions. As I said before, soldiers are prosecuted by their units, face trial, or are transferred from their duties. Again, I can give you the examples of other offenses. There is a difference between a soldier stealing 10 shekels from a friend and stealing 1,000 shekels from him.

[Savir] Do you feel that there is an understanding in the field of the regulations, of the gravity of the offenses? There are soldiers who speak about a serious lack of communication between headquarters and what is happening to the soldier in the field.

[Strassnoff] I think that at present one can say the soldiers certainly understand better than in the past what is permitted and what is forbidden. The chief of staff's message was distributed 10 days ago. There were also clarifications in the media by authorized military legal personnel, and commanders in the field. I myself met commanders in the field and, as far as I understand, the spirit and letter of the orders have been made clear. The soldiers now know exactly what is permitted and what is forbidden.

IDF Raising Level of Command in Territories
TA031834 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1800 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] The IDF has begun implementing the decisions to raise the level of command in the territories. As of tomorrow, the Judea and Samaria Brigade will be called the Judea and Samaria Headquarters and will be headed by an officer bearing the rank of brigadier general. Our military affairs correspondent Karmela

Menashe reports that henceforth IDF troops in the territories will be commanded by four officers bearing the rank of brigadier general.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Bomb Wounds 4 Soldiers

TA040814 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0800 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] Four IDF soldiers were slightly wounded this morning when a homemade bomb exploded in the Dayr al-Balah refugee camp. The soldiers were treated on the spot. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that security forces are searching the area for more bombs.

Shultz Return Sparks Strike

TA041040 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 4 Mar 88 pp 1, 21

[Report by Bradley Burston]

[Excerpts] Gaza city—Denouncing U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz as "the great evil envoy," the influential Islamic Jihad organization here has called for a three day general strike to begin this morning.

Leaflets distributed by the organization late yesterday declared that the purpose of the Shultz mission was "to extinguish the flames of the uprising," and said that "we should burn Shultz's black suitcase," in calling for renewed resistance to the Israeli authorities.

In response to the Islamic Jihad, IDF troops, already placed on maximum alert following rumours of attacks on Israeli vehicles traveling to the Qatif settlement bloc during yesterday's Purim holiday, are to maintain a high profile in areas surrounding mosques throughout the weekend. [passage omitted]

Although the region was generally quiet yesterday, demonstrations broke out in the southern Gaza town of Rafah, after Palestinian activists got pupils of the girls' high school to leave classes and hold a mass gathering. Barricades were set up and incidents of burning tyres and rock-throwing then spread to the nearby refugee camp.

Arriving to disperse the demonstrations, IDF troops fired tear gas, rubber bullets and shot into the air.

PLO Public Opinion Move

TA041233 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
4 Mar 88 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Text] PLO activists are planning a new operation meant to embarrass Israeli authorities and to impress public opinion. In this operation dozens of West European mayors and parliament members are to be flown to the territories to remain several days in the refugee camps of the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

The operation is being planned by East Jerusalem's Mubarak 'Awwad, whose Israeli visa has expired; and Ibrahim al-Sus, PLO representative in Paris.

An Israeli Foreign Ministry official expressed doubts as to whether the Palestinian representatives will succeed in organizing the large delegation. He said that "Israel has information concerning this intention, but decisions will be made only when it transpires that the operation is indeed being implemented."

Arab Cars 'Sabotaged'

TA041245 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
4 Mar 88 p A 2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Text] Some 15 cars belonging to Arabs were sabotaged in Hebron after midnight last night by extremists identified with KAKH. The attack is aimed at signaling to the IDF that the settlers will not let attacks on children and women go unpunished.

An announcement issued last night by KAKH and the Committee for Security on Judeaea, Samaria, and Gaza Strip roads, which is identified with Me'ir Kahane supporters in Hebron, said that since the army did not take any measures following the stabbing of Aharon Peretz in Hebron, KAKH members decided to take the initiative and attack 15 vehicles in the heart of the city.

The attack was carried out after Brigadier General 'Amram Mitzna', commander of the Central Command, came to Hebron to talk with settlers' representatives in an attempt to calm tempers. Among those who met him were Rabbi Moshe Levinger and Ze'ev Friedman Zambish. Zambish and Levinger praised the army's conduct, but complained that not enough was being done to look after the lives of the settlers.

2 Dead, 1 Wounded in W. Bank

TA041617 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1600 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] After 3 days of having no fatalities in the territories, two were killed today: one in the village of 'Arrabah near Janin, and the other in the village of Al-Khidr near Ramallah. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that hundreds from the 'Arrabah village demonstrated, attacking an IDF patrol with clubs, bottles, and stones. The soldiers in the patrol fired in the air and later directed fired at the rioters so as to extricate themselves.

As for the fatality from the Al-Khidr village near Ramallah, our correspondent notes that the IDF is examining the circumstances of the death. As far as is known, local villagers tried to block the road, hurling stones and iron bars at traveling cars. An IDF force dispersed them with rubber bullets and tear gas.

There were riots also in the village of Idnain near Hebron, as well as several places in the Gaza Strip. Two were wounded at the Al-Burayj refugee camp, one of them critically, after a youth attacked an IDF officer and the latter opened fire. At the same time, our correspondent notes that the Gaza Strip was generally quiet today.

4 Arrested Within Green Line

TA040956 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] Police are also arresting Arabs within the Green Line. Such an operation was carried out last night by the Sharon District police who arrested nine people, included several minors, in the village of Jaljuliya. Our police affairs correspondent Dov Gilhar reports that they are suspected of burning tires, blocking roads with stones, and hurling stones at vehicles. They will be brought before a magistrate this morning, and the police will request an extension of their detention.

Nabulus, Ramallah 'Closed'

TA041150 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] Several areas in Judea and Samaria were closed to media coverage this morning as one of the measures to prevent disturbances as worshippers leave the mosques.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that many journalists were detained at roadblocks in Judea and Samaria and were sent back. The towns of Nabulus and Ramallah were declared closed military zones.

Nabulus was closed to press coverage last Friday, and there were no disturbances there at the end of the prayer services.

200 Arabs Detained

TA031331 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Since the Israeli Arabs' solidarity strike with the inhabitants of the territories began about 2 months ago, some 200 suspects in Nazareth, the Triangle, the Galilee, and the Golan Heights, have been detained and questioned. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that RAKAH claims that many of the detainees are its members. The police deny that the arrests are politically motivated and stress that they were carried out on the basis of clear evidence.

2,350 Serving Jail Terms

TA040532 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] Two hundred and ten residents of the territories have been put in administrative detention since the beginning of the recent unrest. Security sources say the majority were previously known to them. Our reporter adds that 2,350 prisoners are serving jail terms for taking part in the disturbances.

Ministry To Sell W. Bank Homes

TA021433 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] The Construction and Housing Ministry has launched a campaign to promote the sale of apartments in Ari'el, Qarne Shomron, and Alfe Menashe. Our correspondent Arye Salman reports that those who sign up to buy a home during the campaign will enjoy government assistance to the tune of between 72,000 and 83,000 shekels.

Economic Pressure Seen Moderating Uprising

TA021523 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 2 Mar 88 p 25

[Report by Roni Shaged]

[Text] "This is the luxury of intifada [Arabic for uprising]." Shmu'el Goren, the coordinator of government activities in the territories, said yesterday. "The instructions issued by the Unified National Command of the Uprising and the PLO to the inhabitants of the territories indicate a desire to ease the pressure from the inhabitants on the one hand, and at the same time to demonstrate that the Command is in control of events in the territories.

"Our policy calls for minimal intervention in daily affairs. The inhabitants pay their taxes, and electricity, water, and cooking gas bills. If they stop doing that, the Israel Electric Company or Meqorot will cut down their services," Goren said.

The defense establishment understands that economic pressure could moderate the uprising. Said Goren:

"The PLO promised the inhabitants of the territories a lot of money, but so far we have had no indication about any substantial sums of money arriving. The PLO has failed to give the inhabitants any sort of economic compensation. The Israeli Arabs' aid is also marginal. We, on the other hand, have increased supervision over the monies that enter the territories. The result is that 70 percent of the laborers go to work in Israel every day now."

Nisim-Sharon 'Secret Deal' on Settlements

TA041038 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Mar 88 pp 1, 21

[Report by Avi Temkin and Shlomo Ma'oz]

[Text] Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon and Finance Minister Moshe Nisim have struck a secret deal that will enable Sharon to boost development projects in West Bank settlements before the coming elections.

THE JERUSALEM POST has learned that in return for a promise from Sharon to stop calling for devaluation and cease his opposition to Nisim's economic policies, the finance minister agreed to add NIS 10 million to the funds available for Jewish settlements in the territories.

According to sources in industry, the secret deal between Sharon and Nisim was made in December, on the eve of the Cabinet vote on the draft budget for fiscal 1988/89. To keep it secret, both ministers decided that the proposed sum would not appear in the budget to be approved by the Knesset, but would be transferred from the reserve once the fiscal year begins.

The money would then be transferred to an existing item in the budget, "Development of Industrial Areas in Development Zones," which was officially allocated NIS 15.8 m. in the draft budget for 1988/89. The man behind this item is Avraham Mintz, a member of Gush Emunim and Sharon's adviser for development areas. According to some sources, Mintz's use of the government funds is difficult to control. They describe Mintz as one of the most radical and militant members of Gush Emunim.

The sources said that for many years there had been a committee at the Industry Ministry that approved the procedures for outlays from the development-areas budget. But since Sharon's appointment of Mintz, there has been no committee and Mintz alone decides where, when and how the money will be spent.

Before the accord was clinched, Sharon had been prominent in campaigning for a prompt devaluation of the shekel and led a revolt of Likud ministers against Nisim's budget proposals. At one point, Nisim was left without support for his proposals and there was concern at the Treasury that he would not be able to muster a majority in the cabinet.

Sharon and Nisim decided not to inform the country's industrialists—who had collaborated up to that point with Sharon in his campaign against Nisim—about their accord.

Sharon's official position has since been that he agreed to vote for the budget because he had received significant concessions from Nisim on his demands to increase incentives for exporters by \$50m. and for additional funds for industrial research and development.

Manufacturers' Association Director-General Arnon Tiberg told THE POST yesterday that he had not heard about such a deal. "It sounds very strange to me," he added.

Jewish-Arab Conflict Compared to Pre-1948 State
TA041044 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 4 Mar 88 p 1

[Analysis by Yehuda Litani and Joel Greenberg: "Pre-1948 Revisited"]

[Text] The Jewish-Arab conflict in this country is rapidly deteriorating to its pre-1948 origins—mutual vandalization of property, destruction of trees and of livestock, stoning and stabbing. It is gradually becoming a war of populations, instead of a limited conflict between youths from both communities.

Yesterday's destruction of livestock at Nehusha is the latest indication of the form that the conflict is increasingly taking. Last week, an avocado plantation in a northern kibbutz was vandalized and Arab residents of Baqul-Sharqiyah complained that settlers had burned and cut olive trees in their village.

More reservists are serving in the territories, widening the circle of Israelis directly involved in the conflict with the Palestinians. On the Palestinian side, even old women and young girls are heaving rocks at soldiers. Villagers in the remote Arab communities have taken to the streets with knives and rocks to fight settlers and soldiers. Some settlers driving through the isolated villages have opened fire in response to rock-throwing, sometimes fatally.

Despite the broad conflict the two populations have not disengaged from daily contact. Most Arab labourers still travel to earn their livelihood in Israel. Despite bouncing cheques from Arab merchants, Jewish suppliers are still delivering the goods.

As the Palestinian uprising is approaching its fourth month, one can discern the following pattern: A widening conflict between communities whose mutual dependence compels them to maintain a minimum of contact necessary to meet their basic needs.

Dissension Threatens 'Serious' Crisis for Amal
TA030854 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 2 March 88 p 2

[Report by David Rudge: "Extremist Dissension Threatens Amal"]

[Text] Rosh Hanigra—The Amal Shi'ite movement, already at loggerheads with its rival—the Iranian-backed Hizballah—over the kidnapping of American UN officer Lt.-Col. William Higgins, is now facing dissension from extremist elements within its ranks, according to reports from Lebanon.

The latest crisis to Amal's stability comes from members of the Believers Resistance, who until now have been aligned with the relatively moderate Shi'ite movement.

The ties were broken following the suspension last Friday of two leading members of the Believers Resistance, Mustafa Dirani and Shaykh 'Abid Haydar, from senior positions within Amal.

Dirani had held the post of Amal security chief while Haydar had been head of the movement's cultural affairs department. Both come from the Al-Biq'a Valley area where there is a strong Hizballah influence.

It is assumed, although no official reason was given, that the two were sacked because of their public statements condoning the kidnapping of Higgins and deploring Amal's search operations for the missing 43-year-old head of UNTSO's observer group in Lebanon.

Following the suspensions, several hundred Amal supporters with more radical leanings split from the movement and joined forces with Dirani and Haydar. The dissenters held a meeting in Beirut on Sunday at which they called for radical reform within Amal, closer ties with Iran and the Islamic way of life, and intensification of the resistance struggle against Israel.

A source close to Amal leader Nabih Birri accused the Believers Resistance men of double allegiance and of trying to sell out Amal to a foreign power (Iran).

Birri has for some time been seeking to curb the growing power of the Believers Resistance within Amal and to limit their freedom of operation in the south, but without causing an outright split.

Since the kidnapping of Higgins there has been a marked increase in the number of claims by the Believers Resistance of responsibility for operations against South Lebanese Army (SLA) and IDF targets inside the security zone in South Lebanon.

These included last week's roadside bombing of an IDF tank that killed two crewmen and wounded two others, and an abortive early Sunday morning attempt to storm an SLA

position on the border of the security zone near Bayt Yahun village. The Believers Resistance also claimed responsibility for recent Katyusha rocket attacks on the Galilee.

Lebanese newspapers reported that the recent operations were probably co-ordinated with the Islamic Resistance, the fighting arm of the Hizballah.

It is also believed that members of the Believers Resistance, in co-operation with the Hizballah, were responsible for the abduction of Higgins, whom Shi'ite extremists have accused of being a spy for the American Central Intelligence Agency.

This would partly explain why Amal, which claims to know where Higgins is being held and by whom, has not used force to try and secure the UN officer's release—for fear of starting an inter-Shi'ite feud.

Sources in south Lebanon said that the internal dispute represented one of Amal's most serious crises since the establishment of the movement in 1975. Nevertheless, it was likely that a compromise agreement would eventually be reached and the two suspended men reinstated in some capacity or another.

The sources noted that any compromise, however, would probably entail a commitment from Amal to adopt a more militant line in the future.

Minister Criticizes Shamir's 'Intransigence'

*PM031333 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 27 Feb 88 p 1,2*

[(Nasr al-Majali and Zaki Musa report: "Jordan, Egypt, and Syria Adopt Same Position")]

[(Text)] London — Jordan, which receives U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz today, has emphasized that its position on the question of a Middle East settlement is a part of the general Arab position. In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT over the telephone, Jordanian Information Minister Dr Hani al-Khasawinah has stated that the attitudes of Jordan, Egypt, and Syria toward the new U.S. ideas are the same and are harmonious.

The Jordanian information minister said Jordan was frequently disappointed by the negative U.S. stand and that all previous U.S. initiatives came to a halt because of Israeli objections, but, he said, we welcome Mr Shultz to Amman.

He added: We are very disappointed today after Shultz' meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir who has openly rejected the "land for peace" principle on which Shamir said he held consultations with former Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin. We are even more disappointed by Shamir's strange interpretation of Resolution 242.

We, nonetheless, hope that Shultz, after witnessing Shamir's intransigence and insistence on expelling all of the Palestinian people to Jordan or the other Arab states, will be motivated to bring the U.S. Administration's position close to the Arab position.

The Arab position, the Jordanian information minister said, can be summed up in the need to implement Resolution 242 and convene an international conference in accordance with Resolution 338. He added that King Husayn, who is currently in London, has instructed Crown Prince Hasan and Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i to listen to Shultz and receive him in a positive spirit.

Answering a question on the ideas carried by Shultz in comparison with the old ideas contained in former Israeli Minister Yigal Allon's plan, Dr al-Khasawinah said: We and other Arab states are only interested in the implementation of Resolution 242 through an international conference. The principle of comprehensive withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories must be recognized. Our position on this point is known. As regards technical details regarding withdrawal from one place or another, that could be worked out in negotiations and consultations.

He also said: In reference to "territories," as far as we are concerned not a single foot of our occupied territories shall be forfeited. We, as well as Resolution 242, reject acquisition of other people's territory by force and occupation.

The Jordanian minister was answering a question about Shultz' ideas regarding autonomy in "occupied territories."

On King Husayn's expected meeting with Shultz in London on Tuesday and whether the meeting would be in conflict or in line with Shultz' visit to Amman today, Dr al-Khasawinah said: There is no conflict. King Husayn is now in London in the course of a European tour which has taken him to Rome, Paris, and Vienna.

Meanwhile, the efforts made all day long yesterday by U.S. diplomats to persuade Palestinian figures to rescind their decision not to meet with the U.S. secretary of state, who had asked to meet with them yesterday afternoon, have failed. The general strike in all Palestinian towns and villages was successful and the sweeping popular uprising escalated yesterday resulting in the martyrdom of four more people whose ages ranged from 12 to 50 years.

In a telephone statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from his home in the Gaza Strip, former Gaza Mayor Rashad al-Shawwa said he conveyed to Shultz a message to the effect that if you are prepared to guarantee an Israeli plan for withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, then we would be willing to meet with you, otherwise it is no use.

Al-Shawwa said that he sent his message to the U.S. secretary of state through an adviser at the U.S. Embassy who contacted him and other Palestinian personalities in an attempt to persuade them to change their decision not to meet with Shultz.

In a similar statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj confirmed that U.S. officials had contacted him and 15 other Palestinian figures including Mustafa al-Natshah, Rashad al-Shawwa, Hanna Sinyurah, Sa'id Kan'an, Fayiz Abu Rahmah, Dr Yasir Ubayd, Hanna al-Atrash, Dr Sirri Nusaybah, Dr Haydar Abd al-Shafi, and Dr Dawud al-Qutb, but they all refused [to meet with Shultz].

The Bethlehem mayor said he was astonished that the U.S. Embassy contacted them even though it had prior knowledge of the Palestinian boycott decision. He added that the general strike has covered all Palestinian towns and villages and that confrontations between the Palestinians and Israeli troops resulted in the martyrdom of four compatriots, who are Zarifah Daraghimah, 50 years old from Tubas; Iyad al-Ashqar, 12 years old from Jabalyah-Gaza; Fu'ad Ayyub al-Shahrawi, 47 years old from Hebron; and Hasan Muhammad Abu Khayrat, 22 years old from Al-Arub in the Hebron District. Scores of people were seriously wounded.

1988 Budget for Development Program Approved

*JN020800 Amman AL-RAYY in Arabic
2 Mar 88 p 28*

[(Text)] Amman, (PETRA)—Dhuqan al-Hindawi, deputy prime minister and education minister, presided over a meeting of the subcommittee stemming from the Higher Committee for Occupied Territories Affairs yesterday. During the meeting, the subcommittee reviewed all expenditures during the first year of the economic and social development program being implemented by the

government to support citizens in the occupied Arab territories. The actual implementation of the program began early in March last year.

The subcommittee also discussed the expenditure program for 1988 and decided to approve the estimated budget for the second year of the program. The budget includes the following:

1. New projects costing 5,325,400 dinars.
2. The allocation of 8,604,960 dinars to cover the salaries of teachers in the West Bank and Gaza, the salaries of new sectors, the salaries of lawyers on strike, plans for employing engineers, and other expenditures.
3. Draft loans totaling 1,860,800 dinars for the West Bank and Gaza.

Occupied Territories Affairs Minister Marwan Dudin will hold a news conference next week to review the economic and social development program during 1987 and allocations for 1988.

AL-DUSTUR Urges U.S. To Pressure Israel
JN040903 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
4 Mar '88 p 11, 12

[Editorial: "Shultz' New Tour and the Rock of Israeli Obduracy"]

[Text] There is no harm in U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' returning to the area to continue his efforts to ensure success for what is being referred to as the new U.S. initiative.

As a result of the first part of his tour, it has become clear to Mr Shultz, and to the whole world, that it is the Israeli side alone that is a stumbling block in the way of peace efforts and that it is the Israeli side that is wagering on both retaining the fruits of occupation and enjoying peace at the same time.

It has been confirmed in all the Arab capitals visited by Mr Shultz that the Arab view on achieving an honorable and just peace in the area is clear and is the same in all capitals. The U.S. secretary of state heard the same views and arguments during his latest shuttle trips to Arab capitals.

Mr Shultz heard from King Husayn, leader of the Arab summit, that the only way to achieve peace is by convening an international peace conference attended by all the parties to the conflict and the five permanent member states of the Security Council. Mr Shultz also heard that the responsibility for achieving peace falls on both the United States and the Soviet Union—that is, the monopolization by the United States of the efforts to achieve peace is not the most appropriate way to achieve a peace regaining the usurped Arab territory and restoring legitimate Arab rights.

If there is something to say to Mr Shultz as he begins the second part of his tour of the area, it is that any progress toward a just and peaceful solution to the region's crisis depends on the extent of U.S. readiness to exert pressure on the Israeli side, which is prevaricating in the hope of gaining time and dictating a fait accompli. Otherwise, all the peace efforts will continue to rotate in an empty circle and will be shattered on the rock of the obduracy of Israeli extremists who draw their support and strength from the stands of the United States itself.

The uprising of the kinfolk rebelling in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip has imposed itself as a major variable on the arena. Israel, which has stopped its ears to the appeals of the Arab people who have been living under the yoke of its occupation for many years, must realize that our steadfast people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip will not spare any effort in their indefatigable endeavors to win their rights and regain their dignity in their land.

Israel must also realize that the Arab stand is united in an unprecedented manner in supporting the struggle of the steadfast kinfolk. Indeed, Israel's most loyal friends have turned their backs to it and have covered their faces in shame as a result of its terrorist actions against and suppression of our steadfast people.

As we look forward to what Shultz is bringing in the second part of his tour of the area, we believe the tour by Shultz or anyone else will not achieve the desired results unless efforts are addressed toward the intransigent Israeli side and it is cornered so that it has no escape other than to submit to the option of peace which has become an Arab demand backed by the forces of justice in the whole world.

UK Charity Worker Disappears in Sidon 3 Mar
NC041027 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
11017 GMT 4 Mar 88

[[Text]] The international organizations in Sidon city today reported that a British citizen called Peter Cooleridge, who is an official of Oxfam-UK, disappeared in the city of Sidon yesterday. No party has yet claimed kidnapping him.

Syrian Employee Also Missing
NC041052 Paris AFP in English 11046 GMT 4 Mar 88

[[Excerpts]] Sidon, Lebanon, March 4 (AFP)—British charity worker Peter Cooleridge has gone missing in southern Lebanon together with a Syrian colleague, officials of international relief organisations said here Friday.

Mr. Cooleridge, an official of Oxfam-US, in the Middle East, disappeared shortly after he arrived in the south port city on Thursday, the officials said.

Umar al-Tarabulsi, a Syrian employee of Oxfam, was with Mr. Cooleridge before they both went missing, they said.

The British Embassy in Beirut, contacted by AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, said it had no information on the disappearance of Mr. Cooleridge.

Mr. Cooleridge went missing only two days after the release in the Lebanese capital of two U.N. relief workers, who were kidnapped in the Sidon area on February 5. [passage omitted]

Mr. Cooleridge, who arrived in Lebanon on Monday, was expected to attend a meeting Friday at the Oxfam offices in Beirut, but had failed to turn up, an Oxfam official said.

Security officials in Sidon said contacts had been started between international organisations, militias and Palestinian groups to try to locate Mr. Cooleridge and his companion.

Oxfam Confirms Kidnappings
NC041315 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
11215 GMT 4 Feb 88

[[Text]] At a time when West Germany, Sweden, and Norway are all celebrating the release of their kidnapped nationals in Lebanon, a British citizen has joined the club of foreign kidnapees. This increases the number of British nationals abducted in Lebanon to four.

The Oxfam organization in Lebanon confirmed that its British/Middle East director Peter Cooleridge and its director in Lebanon Umar al-Tarabulsi, a Lebanese citizen of Syrian origin, have been kidnapped.

An official of the organization, who accompanied the two men to Sidon yesterday, informed the Oxfam office in Beirut this morning that Cooleridge and Al-Tarabulsi disappeared in Sidon city between Thursday night and Friday morning.

According to security sources the 40-year-old Cooleridge and Al-Tarabulsi disappeared in Sidon after attending a meeting at the Greek-Catholic Bishopric in Sidon.

We contacted the British Embassy at noon today, but it denied any knowledge of the incident, saying that Cooleridge had stayed in Sidon to hold more contacts.

The question now is: Why do the states whose citizens are subjected to kidnappings insist on sending them to areas which constitute a danger to them, even if their mission is humanitarian?

Iranian Citizen Kidnapped in Beirut 2 Mar
NC040849 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0815 GMT 4 Mar 88

[[Text]] According to security reports, Iranian national Adil Irani and another, unidentified person were kidnapped opposite Al-Khashuqi Mosque in the Hurj Bayrut area [of West Beirut] 2 days ago.

At 1300 on Wednesday an olive green Mercedes without license plates carrying four gunmen intercepted a taxi in which the Iranian national and the other person were riding. They were on their way to Al-Zalqa and Al-Mansuriyah from the airport after their return from Kuwait.

The gunmen forced the taxi driver to go to Al-Shiyah, where they let the driver go but seized the two passengers, taking them to an unknown destination.

Release Reported 4 Mar
NC040930 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915
GMT 4 Mar 88

[[Text]] Iranian national Adil Irani, who was kidnapped with a person called Joseph Isfian, was set free a short while ago.

According to information available to our radio, gunmen riding in a blue Mercedes drove Irani and Isfian to the southern suburb on Wednesday and then robbed them of their money, asking Irani why he went to the eastern area of Beirut. The two were released today.

Armenian Secret Army Leader on Group's Actions
IPM031449 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
2 Mar 88 pp 14-16

[[Interview with Mahran Mahranian, "new" commander of the Armenian Secret Liberation Army, by Salih Qallab; date and place not given]]

[[Text]] [[Qallab]] There has been a statement issued regarding the responsibility of the Armenian Secret Army for the assassination of Frenchman Jacques Mermin in East Beirut, followed by another denying the first. What is the truth concerning this matter? Did you have anything to do with the killing of that French official?

[Mahranian] After the Israeli invasion of Lebanon the Armenian Secret Liberation Army decided not to announce all its military operations for reasons I will explain later. I therefore emphasize that we have neither claimed nor denied responsibility for the killing of French intelligence man Jacques Merrin. However, on this occasion, I want to remind French President Mitterrand of the ultimatum I sent him through his representative in the foreign branch of the French Intelligence Service, whom I met in 'AIBiq' years ago.

In the ultimatum I requested the release of our comrades detained in French prisons, stating that "otherwise operations would be carried out, leaving you to find that the Armenian Secret Army had a hand in them." During that meeting with the envoy of the foreign branch of the French Intelligence Service I explained matters thoroughly and sent a clear message to Mitterrand and his prime minister, Jacques Chirac.

Now, if you are really interested, you should go to Paris and address your questions to Mitterrand and Chirac because they both know, very well, who is behind these operations.

[Qallab] This means that there have been contacts between you and the French Government. Are these contacts still continuing?

[Mahranian] Yes, we have had contacts with the French Government. I have already told you that I met with a senior official of the foreign branch of the French Intelligence Service in 'AIBiq', Lebanon, and held lengthy talks with him.

However, we have lost confidence in all the mediators between us and France, and we have suspended these contacts. Two months ago Chirac tried to reopen dialogue with us through new channels, but we flatly rejected this.

[Qallab] Why have you turned down the opportunity for fresh dialogue? Do you have any conditions in this connection?

[Mahranian] Our conditions are simply that the previous agreements we concluded should be implemented. I must point out here that what annoyed us most was the fact the French, after our agreement with them, began to procrastinate; they exploited the agreed truce to contact an Arab intelligence service in order to put pressure on us and deal a crippling blow to our organization.

[Qallab] We know that the cause of your dispute with France is the detention of some members of your organization in French prisons. What about the other detainees in the United States and some other European states?

[Mahranian] We have one detainee in Switzerland, three detainees in France, one in Britain who will be released shortly, five in California in the United States, and three in Canada.

[Qallab] Do you have contacts and negotiations with these states as you do with France?

[Mahranian] There are no contacts or negotiations between us and the Americans or Canadians. As for the Swiss, we have had negotiations with them but we suspended these just as we did with the French.

[Qallab] A large number of foreigners have been kidnapped in Beirut. What is your position on kidnapping operations in general, and do you believe that Iran is behind these operations?

[Mahranian] We back and support such operations if their aims are political. We support the kidnapping of French people, Americans, and foreign diplomats if the aim is to influence the plans of these states in the region.

As for Iran's link with these operations, I believe that some circles which mount such operations have links with Tehran and coordinate their actions with Iran. That is clear and is no longer a secret. On the other hand, some operations have been carried out for other states and circles.

[Qallab] What about Terry Waite, envoy of the Church of England? Who was behind his kidnapping, and is he still alive?

[Mahranian] I refer this question to [Amal Leader] Minister Nabih Birri. He is fully aware of the circumstances of the kidnapping and of the whereabouts of Waite. I go even further and say that I know for sure that Nabih Birri had a hand in the plan to kidnap Waite, in coordination with others.

[Qallab] What does Birri want? Does he want to harter Waite?

[Mahranian] He wants to use him as a winning card in his own private calculations. Things are crystal clear. The near future will reveal everything.

[Qallab] Are there any relations between you and Iran?

[Mahranian] When Khomeini was in Paris in 1979 we sent an Armenian journalist to interview him. The questions at that meeting focused on the Armenian question and the Armenian community in Iran. We found him very understanding. However, when he assumed power in Tehran, to our great surprise things changed. The first surprise was his attitude toward the Palestinian resistance.

The second surprise came when he executed two Armenian symbols in Tehran. When he talked to us in Paris he spoke with one logic, but in Tehran he used a different logic, to the point that he has prevented the Armenians from celebrating "massacre day," one of their main occasions that falls on 24 April of every year. What does all this mean? Everything is clear.

[Qallab] In 1983 there were reports of an attack on your bases in 'AIBiq'. How true is that, and is it true that the result was the almost complete liquidation of your organization?

[Mahranian] Such an operation did indeed take place, but it occurred in July and not September of that year. It was carried out, not by commandos as the Western media claimed, but by certain organizations carrying different names.

The imaginary organization mentioned at the time had a camp near our area in 'Al-Biqat'. It managed to infiltrate our ranks through various sides and to recruit some agents from our own organization. Their aim was to change the Armenian Secret Army's leadership in cooperation with the French and other organs.

It is common knowledge that 1983 was the year when the organizations split. The operation was carried out under the slogan of finding a more moderate leadership. It began when a member of our Central Committee, whose nom de guerre was "Jan" (but whose real name was Fikri [as published]), went for breakfast with his colleagues in that camp on 15 July 1983. He was treacherously killed, shot in the back.

The next day another Central Committee colleague went to collect the body of Jan, who, it was claimed, was killed when a bomb exploded in his hands during training. The very same group assassinated the other colleague, who was then listed as missing because his body was never found.

I and most members of the leadership were in Europe at the time preparing for some major operations against hostile establishments and targets. When news of what had happened in 'Al-Biqat' reached us, it was decided that I should leave immediately for the region to investigate. I arrived in 'Al-Biqat' on the 24th of the same month, that is, 9 days after the incident.

When I arrived I found the camp burned and deserted, so I went to an adjacent camp belonging to the 'Abu Musa' [Fatah dissident 'Salid Musa] group. I inquired about what had happened, but they told me that they had no information and that they had aligned themselves with the position of the Democratic Front [DFLP].

We then went to a Popular Struggle [PPSF] camp nearby and on the way stopped at a camp belonging to the former group. We were told that our own youth had burned everything and left without saying anything except that they feared Israeli Air Force bombing in cooperation with the Phalangist Party. Because I had heard the same thing from the PPSF, I returned to our camp and began to investigate to try to solve the riddle. In one of the rooms I saw bloodstains on the walls, and on further investigation I discovered parts of a body buried in the ground.

I realized that this person had been killed outside and that afterwards his body was then blown up with explosives in that room. I then found the body of our other leadership colleague whose nom de guerre was 'Abu Mahmud' but whose real name was 'Khatshik' [name as published]. Once the picture was clear our secret organs acted.

We managed to capture some of the culprits who had fled to another country. During interrogation they confessed everything. We executed the members of our organization who

participated in that scheme, and all members of the organization implicated in the operation were released when certain sides intervened. That is all that happened. Although we lost two senior members of our leadership, the operation did not have a great effect on us, and did not finish us off as some Western media claimed.

[Qallab] We have heard that the former leader and founder of your organization was killed in that operation. How true is that?

[Mahranian] Our leader who founded the Armenian Secret Army was killed during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, at noon on 31 July to be specific, in an Israeli air raid on the Anb University area in Beirut. Another member of our leadership was also killed in that raid.

[Qallab] We notice that, since the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and since that operation you spoke of, you have not carried out any significant activity that could be compared with those in the late seventies and early eighties. Have you abandoned your previous methods, or are you still suffering the effects of that blow dealt to you?

[Mahranian] The truth is that we never stopped our military activity at all. In view of the new circumstances we just adopted a new method, which is not to issue any statements on our military operations. Our military activity is continuing uninterrupted.

Some Palestinian factions have claimed responsibility for some of our operations, while the Islamic Jihad and other such imaginary organizations have claimed responsibility for others. We believe that the new approach we have and continue to use is better and more effective in the exercise of violence and armed struggle under the circumstances prevailing since the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, which resulted in the departure of PLO forces from Beirut and fragmented the rest of the liberation movements in the world.

What I mean is that the fact that the liberation movements were scattered throughout a large number of world states has enabled the enemy to infiltrate them. It infiltrated not only the Armenian Secret Army, but also other formidable factions, organizations, and parties which, after the invasion, turned to serving certain organs and states. The proof is that certain Palestinian organizations, acting for suspect intelligence services, participated in the implementation of that operation against our organization in 'Al-Biqat'. I have official documents on that operation.

[Qallab] When Israel invaded Lebanese territory it said that one of its objectives was to strike at the dens of international terrorism in the Lebanese capital. Since you say that the invasion resulted in the fragmentation of the world liberation movements, that means that Israel achieved the declared objectives of its invasion.

[Mahranian] If we look at the facts we would see that the Israeli campaign against Lebanon was a failure. We, the Armenian Secret Army, believe that the Palestinian position, which was the prime target of the Israeli invasion, is a thousand times better than it was then. Despite that, we must, however, admit that Israel did score some success in

relation to the "liberation movements." I have already explained how these forces were scattered all over the world and thus exposed to infiltration by enemy intelligence services in cooperation with intelligence services in the region.

It should be recalled here that while the invasion paralyzed some liberation movements, the only faction which remained in the field and which carried out the most important operations, such as the famous Ankar airport operation, was the Armenian Secret Army. I think my meaning is clear. We have the full ability, in Lebanon and elsewhere, to do everything we want to do. This means that the Israeli invasion did not affect us or our work. On the contrary, our going further underground has strengthened us and rendered us more effective.

Our strength in Lebanon is many times what it used to be. We have sent known members of ours to camps that we set up in 'A-Biqat' as far back as 1975; that is, 11 years after our organization formed and initiated their armed struggle. Our secret cells move with complete freedom in all Lebanese towns and villages.

[Qallab] You say that your operations are continuing and that you do not announce them. Against whom are these operations you speak of directed?

[Mahranian] On the first day of our march we defined our first enemy and its allies, in addition to world imperialism which supports Zionism and its allies.

[Qallab] Despite everything you have said about your presence in Lebanon, it is clear that you did lose an important arena. How did you compensate for that?

[Mahranian] As you can see, we are now on Lebanese territory. This is clear evidence that we are still in Lebanon and that we are strong in this arena. We are present in Lebanon and everywhere else in the world. There is a difference between us and the Palestinian resistance. The resistance had a massive presence in this country and so when it departed it left a big vacuum for a period of time.

However our army was, by nature, a secret army. That is why the invasion had quite an effect on the resistance but little effect on us, and is why we now have a strong presence in Lebanon.

[Qallab] Do you mean to say that your main center is currently in Lebanon?

[Mahranian] You could say that every one of our centers anywhere in the world is a main center, because we apply the method of decentralized leadership in all our work and operations.

[Qallab] How many years has it been since your march began?

[Mahranian] Exactly 13 years.

[Qallab] In view of the present state of affairs and difficulties, do you contemplate revising your methods and becoming an open movement instead of a secret one, abandoning violence in favor of political activity?

[Mahranian] We actually have no intention of abandoning that method. We are a secret movement engaged in military as well as political activity. This means we have a vast network of political relations with a large number of Arab and European movements and parties, and with some states which share our views. I again stress that we insist on secrecy and more secrecy. That is why we decided not to announce our operations.

[Qallab] You talk about what you call the liberation movements, as if you are all one and the same movement. Do you have any links with the Red Brigades, the Baader-Meinhof, and the Japanese Red Army groups? And do you coordinate your operations with these groups?

[Mahranian] It is only natural that we should have ties with these forces and factions, and that we coordinate our operations with them. We believe that to counter the existing relations between the regimes hostile to us there should be coordination between us. Our alliance is very natural at the political, military, and organizational levels.

[Qallab] Even with the Red Brigades and the Baader-Meinhof groups?

[Mahranian] The Red Brigades are finished and no longer exist thanks to the services of certain Arab and Palestinian sides; there are, however, some branches which at present operate under names other than the Red Brigades.

[Qallab] You have said that your former leader was killed during the invasion of Lebanon, which means that you are the new leader. How were you chosen for this post?

[Mahranian] We have a collective leadership. I am empowered to speak for the organization. If I carry the title of leader, or spokesman, or official in charge, that does not negate the fact that ours is a collective leadership and that I am committed to everything the collective leadership decides.

300 Palestinians Reportedly Injured in Rafah *NCOS 748 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic* 1715 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Israeli forces stormed two girls schools in the town of Rafah in the Gaza Strip at midday today. The Israeli forces opened fire, causing 300 casualties.

Palestinian sources, which reported the incident, described the attack as a real massacre.

Al-Jumayyil's Ideas Labeled 'Insufficient'
NC040948 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0700 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] Next week is expected to witness active efforts regarding the political situation in light of Syria's answers following the consultations which Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam held with Lebanese Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, Prime Minister Sulim al-Huss, and Ministers Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt.

Informed political sources said the Islamic leaders have agreed that President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil's reform proposals, which he sent to Damascus through the U.S. Administration, are insufficient. They added that the U.S. Administration will continue its efforts to narrow the differences in views.

In their remarks on President al-Jumayyil's ideas, the Islamic leaders said that they do not meet the desired need for reforms, but nevertheless, constitute a basis for further discussion and for the continuation of U.S. contacts with Syria.

Ministerial sources expressed the view that there is an urgent need to resolve the Cabinet situation in order to confront any developments which may reflect negatively on Lebanon's future. The sources also maintained that the situation demands the existence of a government enjoying all the powers so it can fill any possible vacuum.

Birri Proposes Alternatives
NC040531 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] At a news conference this afternoon, Nabih Birri, leader of the Amal Movement and minister of state for the south and reconstruction affairs, presented the text of his remarks on the reform ideas proposed by President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil. Birri's remarks include the following:

1. There is no difference between the proposed reform plan and the formula of the system currently in force.

2. Political sectarianism in Lebanon can now be abolished by the absolute majority in the Chamber of Deputies. The proposed plan suggests a majority that is close to unanimity—85 percent. This emphasizes the determination to consolidate sectarianism instead of abolishing it.

3. We have sought and continue to seek the inevitable reconciliation among the Lebanese before the presidential elections. There is, therefore, not much room for distortion.

It has been our conviction that everybody has an equal standing in reconciliation now that it has become clear that no party can be victorious over another. In fact, we have been shocked by this plan. Therefore, Minister Birri added, as an alternative to this plan we propose:

First, the immediate abolishment of political sectarianism.

Second, the establishment of a state of institutions without regard for the position of the individual. For a start, the Cabinet is to be the authority vested with executive power.

Group Circulates Leaflets Threatening Hizballah
NC040535 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1215 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] Leaflets were recently distributed in West Beirut and in the areas of Sidon and Al-Nabatiyah in Southern Lebanon.

These leaflets say: Our people in the south suffer from a wicked Khomeynite onslaught seeking to turn the region into one of the ayatollah's states. The plot's main features are clear, and its threads are being woven in Tehran, Tel Aviv, and Washington to extend to the south.

The leaflets add: Tehran has paid hundreds of millions of dollars to the Hizballah group in the past 3 years in order to exploit the bad economic conditions. What added fuel to the fire is that some 'Arafatist elements have joined this alliance.

The leaflets warn the Hizballah group, led by 'Abbas al-Musawi, that their lives and the lives of their relatives will be in danger if they do not stop their crimes. The leaflets bear the signature The Arab Brigades for The Liberation of Lebanon [Al-Arwiyyah al-'Arabiyyah Li-tahrir Lubnan].

U.S. Secretary of State Arrives in Damascus
JN041452 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
14125 GNIT 4 Mar 88

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz arrived in Damascus at 1530 today on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was welcomed at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Bhar, the head of the Foreign Ministry's American Department, the chief of protocol, the U.S. ambassador in Damascus, and the embassy staff.

Dallies View Continuing Shultz Mission
JN030835 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0545 GNIT 3 Mar 88

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline: "No Return," AL-BATH says: 'Shultz' return to the region is of no interest to anyone, for 'Shultz and other U.S. envoys' shuttles have become known and understood. To say the least, they aim at containing, not resolving, the crisis.

It is true that the Reagan administration is showing clear interest in the region's issues, at least more than it did last year, but it is also true that this interest is not motivated by a belief in bringing about a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem.

Rather, it is motivated by fear of the growing uprising that has upset the balance and of the Palestinian Arab people, who did not forget their cause with the passage of time, precisely 40 years after the first occupation in 1948 and 20 years after the second occupation in 1967.

On the same subject, AL-THAWRAH says: The United States is trying to revive plans that died and were proved unsuccessful a long time ago. In this, the United States is ignoring the new facts and realities produced by the mammoth uprising of our kinfolk in the occupied homeland.

This attempt is in line with the nature of U.S. policy, which has become enveloped by the Israeli mentality and saturated by the spirit of Camp David, which the Zionist enemy wants as the only model for peace with the Arabs as it achieves political and military gains for Zionist strategy in the region.

However, it is obvious that Washington was not able through these ideas and this policy to breathe life into Camp David, which has become a corpse in the cemetery of the Egyptian regime. With such ideas it is trying to market, the United States cannot suppress the uprising of our steadfast people in the occupied homeland who adhere to the will of struggle, freedom, and the regaining of land, rights, and holy places.

AL-THAWRAH says: The new realities produced by the uprising of the occupied territories must be taken into consideration and must form the bases for any real efforts for a just and comprehensive peace. These bases stem from facts that the world has long determined as a basis for peace.

These are the need for a full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and recognition of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people on their soil and the establishment of their independent state. Otherwise, anything else will be a losing calculation.

AFP Cited on FRG Statement on Schray, Cordes
JN032153 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
21125 GNIT 3 Mar 88

[Text] The FRG Government today voiced its genuine thanks for the Syrian efforts exerted to secure the release of FRG hostage Ralph Schray who was held captive in Beirut.

AFP quoted a statement made by Fred Holmst (name as heard), the FRG Government spokesman, as saying that Bonn hopes the Syrian Government will be able to secure the release of Rudolf Cordes, the other FRG hostage held captive in Beirut, in the near future.

Commentary Urges U.S. To Accept UN Resolutions
JN031510 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230
GNIT 3 Mar 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The United States has once again asked all the parties to the Middle East conflict to make what it described as "realistic" decisions and to amend their present stands. Washington exempted itself from the request, which would have been logical had the United States been pursuing a balanced policy on the Arab-Israeli conflict and had not been a direct party to the conflict on the side of the Zionist enemy.

Realism requires an understanding of the core of the conflict and an examination of its true causes, so that any decision made will be correct and will stem from a real need to find a just and comprehensive solution in the region. Ignoring the conflict and approaching the present situation from a position that excludes the true reasons for the Arab-Israeli conflict does not bring peace closer, but ultimately serves Israeli policy which is based on aggression, expansion, and imposing Israeli occupation as a fait accompli.

The Zionist alliance with imperialist forces brought about the implementation of the conspiracy to establish the Zionist entity on part of Palestine in 1947. Ever since 1948 Israel has launched a series of wars of aggression against the Arabs. It occupied the whole of Palestine as well as other parts of Arab territory.

Despite repeated calls by numerous UN resolutions on Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territory and despite their emphasis of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, Israel has ignored such resolutions and defied the United Nations and its institutions while enjoying U.S. protection.

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Such protection has reached the extent of strategic alliance and Washington's exercise of the right of veto to abort any draft resolution condemning Israeli terrorist actions and binding Israel to a commitment to withdraw from the occupied territory and to acknowledge the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

Consequently, "realism" and the amendment of stands do not concern the Arab side which, during the past 40 years, has been the victim of a continuing Israeli aggression, but concern the Zionist entity and the United States which—as President Reagan said—has the ability to influence Israel's decisions. That is, if the United States is truly serious in its endeavor to establish peace in the area.

The United States must pursue a policy through which it is committed to the implementation of UN resolutions that

affirm the right of self-determination for all peoples that are victims of aggression and occupation and affirm the inadmissibility of the acquisition of the territory of others by force, and call for the convening of a UN-sponsored international conference that enjoys all the powers needed to implement UN resolutions.

Any policies and ideas removed from UN resolutions and adopted by the United States in fact serve one side, the Zionist enemy. That is rejected and resisted by the Arabs because it conflicts with the requisites for a just peace based on the two principles: regaining all the occupied Arab territory and safeguarding the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

Afghanistan

Resistance Coalition Condemns Geneva Talks

LD032130 Tehran IRNA in English 1725 GMT
3 Mar 88

[Text] Qom, Central Prov., March 3, IRNA—The Islamic Coalition of Afghan combatant parties and groups today condemned Geneva talks between the Kabul regime and Pakistan. It warned that Afghan Muslims will not accept anything short of unconditional withdrawal of the Soviet forces, establishment of an Islamic government in Kabul and reparation of losses inflicted on the Afghan homeland.

The coalition in its statement said that Soviet rulers have resorted to their last plot (indirect talks in Geneva) since heavy casualties and losses were inflicted on their army in Afghanistan.

"These illegal talks cannot hinder the revolution in Afghanistan," said the statement, adding that Muslim people of Afghanistan are determined to turn down any compromise and continue their struggle until establishment of an Islamic government.

Meanwhile, head of the seven party union of Afghanistan Yunis Khalis Wednesday rejected indirect talks between the Kabul regime and Pakistan in Geneva, and said such negotiations cannot be acceptable without presence of the real parties involved in the Afghan issue, i.e. Afghan mujahidin and the Soviet Union.

Khalis speaking after a union's session in Peshawar, Pakistan, said a communist regime in Afghanistan would endanger the security of the neighbouring Muslim countries, and that mujahidin will not return to their homeland until establishment of a government by the revolutionaries themselves.

There is no evidence of the Soviet pull-out from Afghanistan, but the occupying forces are fortifying their positions in the Shindand bases in Herat, Shadian plain in Mazar-e Sharif, Samarkhel in Nangarhar, Kolicki in Baghlan and around Kabul.

Khalis also called on the secretary general of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), Sharifuddin Pirzada, to back the composition of the provisional government introduced by the union.

Najibullah Speaks to Agrarian Seminar Member

LD031845 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Excerpt] This afternoon at Delkoshah Palace, the presidential headquarters, Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, received participants in the training seminar on explaining and describing the law on agrarian relations.

During this meeting Esteemed Najibullah spoke on the fruitful and important work of the seminar's participants and said: We have gathered to discuss very important and fruitful work. This important work is to explain and describe the law on agrarian relations in the country. Our country is an agricultural country, and 90 percent of its inhabitants are engaged in peasant work. Agricultural products constitute two-thirds of our national income. A democratic and just solution to land and water issues is the prime front in our struggle to implement the national reconciliation policy.

Esteemed Najibullah added: The groups responsible for explaining and describing the law on agrarian relations and on adopting a new and logical approach in the interests of the toiling peasants, should pay profound attention to making use of unutilized land, improving grazing land, rendering assistance to the peasants, forming cooperatives, and involving private investors in the use of unutilized land, and creating mechanized agricultural forms. They should carry out fruitful work the results of which should be irreversible.

Esteemed Najibullah drew the attention of the groups to the need to mobilize the peasants to increase agricultural output, take measures to distribute land to the landless peasants and small landholders, cultivate the lands, and make broad use of voluntary work. He said he regards their work in this direction as valuable.

At the end of his speech Esteemed Najibullah talked about efforts by the Republic of Afghanistan to ensure peace and normalize the situation in the country. He mentioned the statements by the leaders of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union on the settlement of the Afghanistan situation which have received the support and backing of all the forces and strata in various classes of our society and progressive societies elsewhere.

At the end, seminar participants expressed their thanks and appreciation for the instructive speech made by Esteemed Najibullah. [passage omitted]

Najibullah Meets Samangan Province Elders

LD031828 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, received this afternoon at Delkoshah Palace, the presidential headquarters, the elders and representatives of Samangan Province's people. [passage omitted]

During this meeting Esteemed Najibullah gave specific instructions to the relevant authorities concerning the proposals and demands by the meeting's participants.

On behalf of the others, Haji Muhammad Akbar expressed his gratitude to Esteemed Najibullah for meeting and addressing them. A gift from the people of Samangan was presented to Esteemed Najibullah. It was accepted with thanks.

Belorussian SSR Delegation Continues Visit

Meets With Koshani 3 Mar

LD032307 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] A Belorussian delegation met this afternoon with Mahbullah Koshani, deputy prime minister and head of the State Planning Committee. The deputy minister for direct cooperation affairs was also present during this meeting. Talks were held on issues related to expanding direct economic cooperation between Belorussia and Konarha and Laghman Provinces.

According to another report, the Belorussian delegation, which is led by B. Mikiichenko, deputy chairman of the republic's State Planning Committee, held a news conference on the results of their talks with Afghan authorities on aid to Konarha and Laghman Provinces. The delegation leader said: According to the protocols signed between Belorussia and the Republic of Afghanistan on expanding aid to these Konarha and Laghman Provinces, we will help the Afghan side in the fields of education, communications, agriculture, land and water reform, public health, as well as in the field of trade unions.

According to the protocol, in addition to the previous assistance, assistance will be rendered to Konarha Province valued at R363,000, including sowing seeds, chemical fertilizer, technical equipment, medical equipment, and teaching material. The sum of 434,120 will be rendered as assistance to Laghman Province. This assistance will begin in 1989 and will continue up to 1995.

Holds Talks With Shormach

LD032315 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Muhammad Akbar Shormach, minister of nationalities affairs, met today at Melma Pal Hotel with the deputy chairman of the Belorussian State Planning Committee. During this meeting the deputy minister for direct cooperation affairs was also present. Views were exchanged on subjects of mutual interest and the expansion and development of direct economic cooperation between Belorussia and Konarha and Laghman Provinces and other nationalities of the country.

Armed Groups Join National Reconciliation

LD040914 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0500 GMT
4 Mar 88

[Text] Kabul, March 3, BAKHTAR—Two armed groups consisting of fifteen and 40 armed men who for some time were carrying anti-state activities in the suburbs of Helmand and Herat Provinces joined the policy of national reconciliation.

in a gathering organized in this connection in the Sangin District of Helmand Province, Mullah Aref, head of the 15 men armed group pledged his group member's support for the realization of the policy of national reconciliation and ensurance of peace and security in that district.

The forty men armed group headed by Aziz joined the policy of national reconciliation in the Enjil District of Herat Province.

The commission for national reconciliation and the residents of Enjil District welcomed this humanistic act of the group.

Aziz, head of the group on behalf of its group pledged that they will do their bests for the ensurance of peace and security in their areas.

Meanwhile, an armed extremist group was trying terroristic activities in the Zende Jan District of Herat Province was toppled with the assistance of the residents of that district. Our military correspondent reports from Herat that the peaceful residents of the district apprised the commission for national reconciliation of Zende Jan of the existence of the extremists there.

At the request of the commission for national reconciliation of the district the forces of public order entered the area and asked the extremist lay their arms down. [sentence as received] Instead, the extremists opened fire to the forces of public order as a result of which the forces resorted to counterattack and wiped the area from the extremists.

Bangladesh

Further Reportage, Comment on Elections

Home Minister on Casualties

BK031417 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali
1330 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Professor M.A. Matin, deputy prime minister and minister of home affairs, said that elections to the fourth parliament and four municipal corporations were held smoothly despite the opposition parties' program to disrupt them. He said this has been proven by initial reports from different places.

M.A. Matin made this statement at a crowded press conference for local and foreign journalists this evening at the Home Ministry conference hall. Information and Irrigation Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud and cabinet, home, and information secretaries were present.

Professor Matin said that polling started at 0900 this morning as scheduled. Other than a few stray incidents, smooth, peaceful voting took place in a large number of polling centers.

Reports received so far say that 4 people were killed and 80 injured in clashes between rival groups in Dhaka city. He said that reports of ballot box snatching had also been received from some centers. Polling remained suspended in these centers.

According to the latest report, polling remained suspended in 170 centers throughout the country. The election commission will later take the necessary steps in this regard.

Jatiya Party Leading

BK040145 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Excerpt] The ruling Jatiya Party is heading toward a massive victory in the Sangsad [Parliament] elections held throughout the country yesterday.

According to the partial unofficial results received from the Election Commission late last night, 41 candidates have been declared elected. Of them 36 belonged to Jatiya Party, 3 to Combined Opposition Party, and 1 each to Freedom Party and Independents.

Four ministers have returned. They are Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury from Sylhet-1, Communications Minister Matiur Rahman from Bakerganj-5, Social Welfare Minister Mirza Ruhul Amin from Thakurgaon-2, and Textiles Minister Sunil Kumar Gupta from Bakerganj-1. [passage omitted]

Opposition Comments on Violence

BK031658 Hong Kong AFP in English 1633 GMT
3 Mar 88

[Text] Dhaka, March 3 (AFP)—At least five people were killed Thursday and more than 160 injured as violence marred Bangladesh's second parliamentary elections in as many years, it was officially announced here.

Opposition leaders said the toll was higher.

Preliminary returns carried by official BSS news agency indicated that out of 30 constituencies in Dhaka, President Hussain Mohammad Ershad's ruling Jatiya Party was leading in 22.

The balloting—called after Mr. Ershad dissolved the last parliament 19 months after it was elected—was boycotted by opposition parties who have been demanding for months that the president step down.

Deputy Prime Minister for Home Affairs Abdul Matin told reporters that four people died in Dhaka and one in western Manikganj District in clashes between supporters of rival candidates. He added that clashes had also left about 80 hurt in Dhaka, with 55 being admitted to hospital.

Opposition leader Begum Khaleida Zia of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party and Abbas Ali Khan, chief of the Jamiat-i-Islami Party, said at least nine people died in Dhaka alone in poll-related violence.

Mr. Matin said the balloting for parliament and four municipal corporations had been "reasonably peaceful" across Bangladesh and that they were "successful, free and fair."

He said however that polling in about 170 out of 22,000 centres had to be stopped due to violence, absence of officials and other reasons.

Mr. Matin disclosed that the official death toll in February 10 local council elections, also marred by violence, was 114. Earlier officials had said 85 people had died in what was Bangladesh's worst case of election violence.

Sheikh Hasina Wajed, leader of the opposition Awami League Coalition, said at least 10 people died Thursday—eight in Dhaka and two in Chittagong. She said the opposition rejected the polls as farcical and that it would continue struggling until President Ershad bows to its demands to step down and hands over power to a neutral caretaker government.

Both Sheikh Hasina and Begum Zia had called for Saturday to be observed as a day of protest nationwide, after the opposition's boycott of Thursday's voting.

"The government has once again proved itself to be utterly ineffective and incompetent" to hold elections and run the country, Begum Zia said.

Mr. Matin said the actual voter turnout would not be known until the Election Commission collects all reports from constituencies. But he told a reporter that he had visited a dozen polling centres in Dhaka where about 50-per-cent voter turnout was recorded. He said that till noon, about 20 people had been arrested in Dhaka for obstructing polls and other related charges.

In the port city of Chittagong, bomb blasts, gun fights and clashes during polling left about 100 people hurt, local sources said. Opponents of the election also set ablaze a local school serving as polling centre. The fire quickly spread to surrounding bamboo and mud houses, gutting 150 of them.

Some 300,000 police and paramilitary personnel had been deployed nationwide to ensure peaceful polling. About 9,000 army soldiers were also deployed at major rural towns as a deterrent to poll violence.

But according to observers here, police and security forces maintained a low profile and in Dhaka most violence were among rival-candidate supporters or participants and opponents of the two-day general strike. No major clashes with police were reported immediately.

Near Dhaka University, a mob of 200 attacked a guarded polling station with bricks and bombs fashioned out of tin cans, forcing police to pack up and flee in waiting trucks with ballot boxes and papers.

The mob, made up of students and opposition activists, then set alight a fire station nearby and looted the belongings of firefighters stationed there, a fire department official said.

"We are strong. We are the strongest," said one demonstrator, flexing his biceps.

Mr. Ershad voted with his wife in Dhaka amid the clicking of press cameras. He said afterwards that conditions "will certainly improve" after the election.

In Dhaka's Old Quarter, most polling places were under the control of musclemen and hardly any voters were to be seen, witnesses said.

AFP: 'Deadlock' Unresolved

BK040329 Hong Kong AFP in English 0312 GMT
4 Mar 88

[By Yves de Saint Jacob]

[Text] Dhaka, March 4 (AFP)—Bangladesh's political deadlock remains unresolved despite Thursday's parliamentary elections, analysts here say.

The government of President Hussain Mohammed Ershad can boast of having conducted the vote without too much bloodshed, by Bangladesh standards, and of pursuing a civilian and constitutional path.

But the opposition has not budged from its declared aim of bringing down the president, and major opposition alliances and the fundamentalist Jamiat-i Islami party, which boycotted the polls, have declared Saturday yet another "day of protest."

This could mean a resumption of the cycle of "hartals," or strikes that have paralyzed since November the economy of this Moslem country of nearly 110 million, which is among the world's poorest.

The opposition has rejected the elections as "a fraudulent farce" and said it would pursue its campaign to oust what it calls the "illegitimate and corrupt" government of Mr. Ershad.

Mr. Ershad can take heart from the relative calm that prevailed on election day, but should be concerned at the near-impossible task in convincing public opinion that the elections were not rigged, the analysts said.

At least four people died in Dhaka and one in a provincial district in Thursday's polls, according to the official count, but the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party and the Jamiat-i Islami have put the toll at nine dead.

"The balloting was more peaceful than expected," Deputy Prime Minister for Home Affairs Abdul Matin told journalists.

While many had feared a major confrontation, the casualty toll turned out to be much less than the official figure of 114 killed in violence linked to last month's local elections.

Informed sources explained this in part by the risk the government took in ordering the police to keep a low profile at a time when the country was under scrutiny by world public opinion.

It paid off in that the violence here never spiralled out of control and seemed to involve either the anti-election opposition and parties that participated, or rival political groups, and there was no need—at least here and in Chittagong, the country's second largest city—to call on 9,000 troops mobilised for the occasion.

But when the international press presented Mr. Matin with eyewitness accounts of electoral fraud, he seemed unable to convince his audience that the elections had been, as he put it, "successful, fair and free."

Correspondents visited ballot centres where there were no officiating chairmen, while in other centres voting lists were circulating freely.

Teenage boys were seen voting in rooms traditionally reserved for women, while one witness said he saw police helping poll officials fill a ballot box.

Mr. Matin said the latter case must have been at one of 39 centres here where the polls will have to be reheld due to incompetence in the first ballot. Poll centres were also seen closing early.

Demonstrators hurled stones at police who were seen leaving a polling station carrying sacks of ballot papers, witnesses said.

Information Minister Anisul Mahmud had earlier admitted that a tradition of electoral fraud existed in Bangladesh, but said it was widespread among all parties.

In the last parliamentary elections in May 1986, there were widespread reports of fraud by the opposition Awami League. This time, the League boycotted the poll.

Death Toll Rises to 7

BK040741 Hong Kong AFP in English 0723 GMT
4 Mar 88

[Text] Dhaka, March 4 (AFP)—The official death toll from Thursday's parliamentary elections in Bangladesh rose to seven Friday as President Hussain Mohammad Ershad's ruling party headed for an expected massive victory.

Hospital sources said Friday that two of some 100 people being treated for injuries sustained from bomb blasts, gunshots and armed clashes died overnight.

Home Minister Abdul Matin said Thursday that there had been five deaths in election clashes—four in Dhaka and one in western Manikganj District.

Leaders of the country's major opposition groups, who boycotted the election and called it a "fraud and a farce," claimed Thursday that at least nine people were killed in election violence.

Press reports here Friday said that at least 33 of those hospitalised had been shot and that the number of injured in the capital alone might surpass the 300 mark.

Dhaka television, broadcasting a running tally of election results, said that Mr. Ershad's Jatiya Party had won 116 of 128 unofficially declared seats.

Five of the other seats went to Abdur Rab's pro-Ershad Combined Opposition Party (COP), one went to the Freedom Party headed by retired Colonel Faruqur Rahman, who led a 1975 coup, and six went to independent candidates. None of the sitting ministers or Jatiya Party stalwarts had lost their seats so far.

The Bangladesh Parliament consists of 300 directly-elected seats.

Under a special provision effective since the Constitution was established in 1972, 30 additional seats were to be reserved for women, but it is almost certain that provision expired when Mr. Ershad prematurely dissolved Parliament December 6.

India

Release of 4 Sikh High Priests Announced

BK040920 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] The four Sikh high priests, Bhai Kashmir Singh, Bhai Savinder Singh, Bhai Jaswant Singh, and Bhai Jasbir Singh Rhode, have been released from Tihar Jail in New Delhi. They have already reached Amritsar. The release followed the revocation of the detention under the National Security Act of the first three and the withdrawal of cases against the fourth.

According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, the cases against the fifth high priest, Bhai Gurdev Singh Kaonke, have also been withdrawn. He is under the process of being released from the Sangrur Jail.

The president of Akali Dal Theruman Group, Mahant Seva Das Singh, has welcomed the release of the Sikh high priests. In a statement in Faridkot today, he said they would give a healthy direction to the misguided youths and help improve the situation in Punjab. The Mahant has also condemned the Karisari shoot-out in Hoshiarpur District. He asked the Center and the state government to take stern action to stop such crimes.

The Akali Dal-Longowal president, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, has welcomed the release of the Sikh high priests. In a statement in Chandigarh today, he described it as a positive step taken by the government. Referring to last night's terrorist killings in Karisari, Mr Barnala termed it as a crime against humanity.

32 Killed, 36 Injured by Terrorists in Punjab

BK040305 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] In Punjab, 32 people were killed when 6 terrorists opened indiscriminate fire on a gathering at Karisari village near Hoshiarpur last night.

Thirty-eight persons were also injured, some of them seriously. Nineteen people died on the spot and others on the way to hospital. The injured have been admitted to various hospitals in Hoshiarpur. The area has been cordoned off. Police have been alerted all over the state.

Police Alerted

BK040752 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] In Punjab, the death toll in last night's terrorist attack in village Karisari in Hoshiarpur District has risen to 33 with one more person succumbing to his injuries in the hospital. According to latest information, the number of persons injured in the shoot out is 39. Police all over the state have been alerted, and a massive manhunt is on to nab the culprits.

In Delhi also police have been alerted following the killings in Punjab.

Tripura Chief Minister Says Army To Remain

BK031631 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] The Tripura chief minister, Mr Sudhir Ranjan Majumder, says the army will remain in the state till the violence by TNV [Tripura National Volunteers] extremists is completely controlled. Taking part in the discussion on the motion of thanks to the governor's address, the chief minister said in the assembly that the national security act was invoked to tackle secessionist activities. He rejected the opposition demand for revoking it.

Assam Rifles personnel operating under the task force have unearthed a big cache of country-made weapons at the Maharani Bazar in South Tripura District. Quoting official sources our Agartala correspondent reports that the weapons were hidden in a bamboo thicket by a suspected TNV activist.

Defense Ministry Spokesman on Research Projects

BK030822 Hong Kong AFP in English 0736 GMT
3 Mar 88

[Text] New Delhi, March 3 (AFP)—India is ready to deploy indigenous low-altitude radars developed as part of wide-ranging major research projects to reduce military imports, a Defence Ministry spokesman said here Thursday.

Scientists of the state-owned Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) have developed a low-level radar codenamed "Indra-1" (God of War) for the Army to monitor ground-level enemy activity at India's frontiers, he said. "Indra-1" has been tested and is "ready for operational use," he added.

An improved version of the radar, "Indra-2", has been developed for low-level aerial surveillance for the Indian Air Force.

"The two radars (Indra 1 and 2) have been tried, used and accepted for introduction into the services," the spokesman said. He did not say if the new systems would totally replace older radars, supplied by Soviet Union.

DRDO scientists have also begun developing a special surveillance radar, "Indra-3" for India's expanding Navy and the Defence Ministry spokesman said the system is being designed, programmed and developed to detect sea-skimming and anti-ship missiles.

The DRDO has given high priority to "Indra-3" because of India's plans to build its own frigates, destroyers, submarines and another aircraft carrier by the year 2000.

"Work on electronic warfare systems is already progressing and the DRDO has made a number of other technical breakthroughs," the spokesman said. These included military communications systems and night vision instruments. He said night vision devices, to be fitted on battle tanks, ships and aircraft, were already being manufactured at DRDO research centres.

DRDO experts have already "developed and proved" a high-explosive incendiary weapon for use on enemy fuel and ammunition dumps and were trying to locally build "fuel-air explosives which have wide applications," he added.

Indian scientists have also successfully tested prototypes of pilotless target aircraft (PTA). The spokesman said PTA launch boosters have also been developed for the first time here, while experts were conducting tests with remotely piloted vehicles (RPV).

India launched its RPV and PTA projects in 1985 to boost offensive warfare capability and cut battlefield casualties, official sources said.

The radar announcement came one week after the DRDO successfully tested an indigenous surface-to-surface tactical missile—a part of the country's most ambitious integrated guided missile development programme under which three other latest missile systems are being designed and developed.

The DRDO has a network of 45 research stations, which work in coordination with eight giant public sector undertakings attached to the Defence Ministry.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has stressed the need for indigenisation of military equipment to try and slash imports and research is underway in many fields including armaments, combat vehicles and sonar technology.

The Soviet Union is India's main arms supplier.

India devoted some 500 million U.S. dollars or more than five percent of its 1987-88 defence budget, worth 9.2 billion dollars, for research and development.

Oil Drilling Equipment Offered to Soviet Union
BK031635 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] India has offered the Soviet Union equipment used in oil exploration. The offer was made to the visiting Soviet deputy minister of oil, Mr V.Y. Sokolov, when he met the petroleum minister, Mr Brahm Dutt, and the petroleum secretary, Mr S. Vardhan, in New Delhi today. Manufacturers in India produce equipment ranging from oil rigs to off-shore supply vessels. India had shown interest in selling such equipment to the Soviet Union at the last India-Soviet commission meeting in Moscow.

Iran

Worshippers Protest Outside Soviet Embassy
LD041208 Tehran IRNA in English 1206 GMT
4 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 4, IRNA—A group of Tehran residents, after participating in Friday prayers here today, marched toward the Soviet Embassy with chants of "Death to Russia" voicing their protest against Moscow's supply of long range missiles to the Iraqi regime.

An hour later at 14:23 local time ((10:53 GMT)) a huge explosion rocked the capital. Another Soviet surface-to-surface missile landed at a civilian quarter. But there were no immediate reports on casualties and damage.

The Baghdad regime has rained scores of these missiles over Tehran's residential areas and hospitals in a new round of cowardly attacks on civilian quarters to cover up for its incapability in the war fronts and to pressure Islamic Iran to accept an imposed peace.

The police blocked streets around the embassy in central Tehran within a range of several hundred meters to prevent possible attacks on the building by the angry demonstrators. The rally dispersed peacefully after a while.

Another report from Esfahan, central Iran today said that the Soviet consulate general in the city was under police protection after it was learned that the people may attack the building to protest Kremlin's support for Baghdad.

The Friday prayer leader of the city Ayatollah Seyyed Jaleleddin Taheri who was addressing a huge crowd of worshippers amidst loud and repeated cries of "Death to Russia" today, blamed the Soviet Union as the main cause behind the recent Iraqi crimes against civilians.

The ayatollah however advised the worshippers not to take any action against the Soviet consulate because "I don't see it wise."

Missile Attacks on Tehran, Baghdad Continue

2d Iraqi Missile Hits Tehran

LD041624 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT
4 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 4, IRNA—Another Iraqi missile, the second since 14:22 local time (10:52 GMT), hit a residential area in Tehran at 18:08 hours local time (14:38 GMT) Friday, injuring several civilians and destroying some houses.

Tehran Urges Calm During Red Alert

LD041638 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1629 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] Dear listeners, just as you have noticed, we are in a state of red alert. Keep calm; your control, calm, and courage will be comforting to your dear children.

17 Killed in Tehran Attacks

LD041735 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran was attacked by two enemy missiles this evening. In the course of the attack a residential area was hit by an enemy missile, resulting in the destruction of a number of homes and some minor damage to other homes and places of trade.

According to the first reports, this attack has left 17 martyrs so far. A number of children aged between 11 and 2 can be seen among the martyrs. Furthermore, a number of injured have been immediately transferred to hospitals to receive treatment.

Minutes after the enemy attack, relief forces rushed to the site and began the task of recovering and aiding the wounded and injured. The relief operations continued until 1930.

2 Missiles Fired at Baghdad

LD041449 Tehran IRNA in English 1447 GMT
4 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 4, IRNA—Two Iranian surface-to-surface missiles were fired at two military centers in Baghdad at 17:15 hours local time (13:45 GMT) Friday. They were in retaliation for previous Iraqi attacks on residential areas in Iran.

Missiles Hit Iraqi Missile Pad

LD041705 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] Before continuing with news reports, I draw your attention to a report we just received. The General Staff Command Headquarters of the IRGC announces: The combatants of the IRGC Ground Forces fired a number of medium-range missiles at a mobile surface-to-surface missile pad of the Iraqi regime near the Tigris River in the central sector in Iraq, destroying it.

Iraq Bombs Dezful, Qazvin Areas

LD031854 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT
3 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 3, IRNA—Iraqi warplanes bombed residential areas of Dezful in Khuzestan Province, at 12:45 hours local time (09:15 GMT) Thursday. Several houses were damaged in the brutal bombing.

Iraqi warplanes also bombarded a village near Qazvin, Zanjan Province, at 21:30 and 22:00 (18:00 and 18:30 GMT) Wednesday. No casualties were reported in the air raid.

Intruding Iraqi warplanes also violated airspace of Khuzestan Province at 11:45 and 12:05 (08:15 and 08:35 GMT) Thursday and while fleeing broke the sound barrier over Agha Jari and Paznun (near Behbahan).

IRGC on Missile Fragments

LD031707 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] The Ministry of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps has issued a statement urging the martyr-nurturing ummah and all relief, military, and security forces presently active at the sites hit by missiles, who may have succeeded in discovering missile parts, to observe the coordination procedures, report to responsible officials using telephone Nos 30, 86, 90, and 866, 503, and to inform the ministry's missiles complex. They should return fragments found to the IRGC missile bases.

The statement also recommends that under no circumstance should citizens touch the fragments. These telephone numbers are for facilitating cooperation in the task of speedily dispatching special teams to specified areas.

Velayati Condemns Attacks

LD031525 Tehran IRNA in English 1518 GMT
3 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 3, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati strongly castigated here today, the recurring Iraqi missile and air attacks on the holy city of Qom since Wednesday "as a sacrilegious act" in violation of all international norms.

In a message to Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) Sharifuddin Pirzada, Welayati condemned the Baghdad regime for timing its missile attack on holy Qom with the birth anniversary of Imam 'Ali (A.S.), the first imam of Prophet Muhammad's (SAW) infallible household, yesterday.

The message noted that thousands of foreign and Iranian Muslims were performing pilgrimage to the shrine of Hazrat Ma'sumah (A.S.) sister of the eighth Imam Reza (A.S.) at the same time of Wednesday's dastardly Iraqi missile attack on Qom.

The foreign minister called on the OIC secretary-general to condemn the ungodly Ba'thist regime of Iraq on the basis of the organization's charter, as the initiator of the war of cities.

Elsewhere in his message Welayati said, the sacrilegious Iraqi missile and air attacks on the holy city again proved to the world the Ba'thist regime's enmity towards Islam and the Islamic sanctuaries.

The foreign minister reiterated that Iraqi attacks are aimed at diverting world public opinion from the ongoing Islamic uprising in occupied Palestine against the Zionist regime occupying holy Qods.

The Islamic Republic, according to the Islamic Shari'a (law) reserves the right to take retaliatory measures against the Iraqi regime's crimes, Welayati concluded.

WIH To Continue Reprisals

LD031848 Tehran IRNA in English 1839 GMT
3 Mar 88

[[Text]] Tehran, March 3, IRNA—The War Information Headquarters (WIH) on Thursday vowed that Iran's Muslim combatants will continue their reprisal attacks on Baghdad, the center of crime and mischief, until the enemy comes to its knees and stops its attacks on Iranian cities.

The WIH in a statement released here today, said that the Iraqi missile and air attacks on Iran's residential areas over the past four days once again proves the fact that Iranian people's spirit of resistance will crush all enemy aggressions.

The statement, referring to the calls of U.N. Chief Javier Perez de Cuellar and international organizations including the U.N. Security Council for an end to the war of cities, said the Islamic Republic never wants the war to spread beyond the battlefields.

The WIH statement said that it is the Iraqi regime which has subjected Iranian cities to a wave of inhuman attacks while Iran's Muslim forces are merely retaliating enemy raids.

It also noted that Security Council demands for a halt to the war of cities is made at a time when big powers from East and West have intensified schemings to push through a second Security Council resolution calling for arms embargo on Islamic Iran, while at the same time they continue to arm the Iraqi Ba'thist regime.

The WIH statement once again vowed that Iran's Muslim forces will powerfully continue their deterrent measures until the Iraqi Ba'thist regime ceases its attacks.

UN Official's Report on Hospital

LD031557 Tehran IRNA in English 1535 GMT
3 Mar 88

[[Text]] Tehran, March 3, IRNA—Head of U.N. Expert team Colonel John Costelloe [name as received] unofficially visited some residential areas of the capital attacked by Iraqi missiles over the past two days.

Col. Costelloe visited a battered Tehran hospital including its damaged C.C.U., war wounded ward and infantile ward as well as damaged houses nearby.

The U.N. colonel filed necessary report of his inspection visit to present to the U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The hospital was attacked by an Iraqi missile Thursday morning and is the second hospital in the capital attacked by Iraq over the past few days.

Col. Costelloe also visited one of the residential areas damaged by Iraqi missiles and prepared similar reports.

Commentary on Missile Attacks

LD031323 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
11030 GMT 3 Mar 88

[[Unattributed commentary]]

[[Text]] We now draw your attention to reports about the Zionist enemy attacks on the residential areas of our country:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The firing of Soviet missiles, on U.S. orders, against Iran's residential areas—in order to achieve Zionist and imperialist goals in the region—continues. Soviet missiles are fired at Tehran on the orders of U.S. imperialism and under conditions in which U.S. imperialism has suffered a moral and logic defeat in the face of new and humane slogans of the Islamic Revolution. The moral and logical defeat of U.S. imperialism in confronting the world revolution of Islam is also a defeat for all antihuman forces.

The Iraqi regime has foolishly given 'Al-Husayni's name to certain Soviet missiles, and, in an insane fashion, it has announced that with these "Al-Husayni" missiles it will attack the holy city of Qom, one of the holiest cities in the world of Islam. Their aim is to smash the Islamic mosques

and colleges there where in the course of history many important members of the clergy have studied. They have been among the vanguards of liberation struggles of the Muslims of the world.

On the other hand, remarks by the spokesman of the U.S. State Department on the Iraqi missile attacks on the residential areas of Tehran are even more comical than Saddam's firing "Al-Husayn" Soviet missiles on the holy city of Qom. Oakley, the official spokesman of the U.S. State Department, while condemning the war of the cities, said: Recently, long-range missiles have been given to Iraq so that it can hit Iran's residential areas, and as Iraq, according to its claim, has in a short period of time fired 22 of those missiles against Tehran, an arms embargo should be imposed against Iran.

You see what clear logic they employ! Can one speak in a more ludicrous fashion? Is this not a sign of the political, moral, and logical bankruptcy of the United States? Do not these illogical remarks demonstrate the Black House's perplexity in the face of the Islamic Revolution? Do the U.S. leaders who have now become the flag-bearers of all anti-human forces not know that world public opinion will condemn these absurd remarks, and these immature, amateurish, and crude policies? Do the U.S. leaders, due to their excessive arrogance and selfishness, really imagine that the people of the world will be deceived by those crude remarks, and not be aware of their real goals? Is there not even one wise person in the U.S. ruling clique to tell that country's State Department's spokesman that if the Iraqi missile attacks on Iran's residential areas have disturbed U.S. human rights sensitivities, then the U.S. Government should call for an arms embargo against Iraq, not Iran?

Despite all the imperialists' prattle designed to cover up their main aims, the evidence of their crimes can clearly be seen under their cloak of hypocrisy. Nearly all the Western mass media, and even Saddam's regime itself, have clearly announced that the aim behind the attacks on Iran's residential areas is the unconditional acceptance of Security Council Resolution No 598, which was drawn up by the UK and the United States. Iran's unconditional acceptance of Resolution No 598 is tantamount to Iran's unconditional surrender to the UK and the United States. Which sane person would violate a cease-fire in towns in order to achieve a cease-fire on the fronts, and what kind of a just peace can be implemented through savage attacks on hospitals, clinics, schools, and mosques?

It is not peace that is desired by the United States and NATO. The United States is not after peace from Iran. It is demanding an abject surrender from Iran, and this is impossible. Although the attacks on Iran's residential areas reveal the nadir of the moral and logical defeat of imperialism, they also reveal the depth of the crimes of the Hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq]. The hypocritical agents of imperialism, in the course of 3 days, by quickly transmitting intelligence to Iraq and spying for the Ba'hist forces, have made three hospitals the targets of Baghdad's missile attacks. This was yet another service rendered by the Hypocrites, who claim to be anti-imperialist, but who are in reality the servants of U.S. imperialism.

Commentary on Attacks, UN Embargo
NC031210 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Central News Unit research group commentary]

[Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In the past few days, the Iranian nation has witnessed a fresh round of Saddamist atrocities, including the firing of numerous missiles at Tehran and Qom, aerial attacks on residential areas, the dragging of women and children in blood and dust, and the destruction of houses and hospitals. The initiation of this phase of Saddamist crimes coincides with the consensus of the world oppressors on an arms embargo against the Islamic Republic of Iran. According to U.S. and British sources, the resolution on the arms embargo will be ratified in a few weeks. (In this manner), the Baghdad rulers themselves have linked the onslaught of missiles on our cities and residential areas to UN Security Council Resolution 598.

Meanwhile, the UN Security Council and all international organizations have displayed a policy of inertia and leniency with regard to this crime by Saddam, and some have stressed the need to expedite the adoption of the resolution for an arms embargo. The Soviet envoy was summoned to the Foreign Ministry in connection with the firing of missiles on our residential areas, and the Islamic Republic of Iran's protests were lodged.

In any case, an assessment of the present circumstances, the recent shuttles to Baghdad by representatives of the permanent members of the UN Security Council, and the experimental evacuation of the major Iraqi cities in early Esfand [20 February to 20 March] point to the fact that the Saddam regime embarked on fresh crimes, under a premeditated plan, to rescue itself from its self-created nemesis, with the use of Soviet-made long-range missiles. However, the Islamic Republic of Iran is determined to remain steadfast and resistant in the face of this series of plots, and to inflict reciprocal crushing blows on the Saddamists.

In addition, the Iraqi regime's recent attacks on civilian and residential areas clearly prove that such crimes do not bring about any important or radical change in the actual course of the war. They merely serve to display once again the filthy nature of the Saddamists and their international allies. It is worth mentioning that the UN Security Council not only chooses to ignore that Saddam is the aggressor and that the clear and established responsibility for the use of chemical weapons and attacks on residential areas, as well as the exacerbation of tension in the Persian Gulf, lies with the Saddamists, but also intends to approve a resolution for an arms embargo against the Islamic Republic of Iran. [passage omitted]

In any case, the Islamic Republic of Iran once again categorically declares that the continuation or proliferation of the plots of world oppression will not bring about any

change in the conditions stipulated by the Islamic Republic of Iran, and that the Islamic combatants are determined to continue their just struggle until the attainment of victory and their aspirations.

Commentary Examines UN Role in Gulf War

LD031502 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian

11118/GMT 3 Mar 88

[Station commentary: "The Security Council—In Line With the Encouragement of the Iraqi Regime's Crimes"]

[Text] In the last few days, the Iraqi missile attacks and air raids against our country's residential and nonmilitary areas have continued. At the same time, the Baghdad rulers have explicitly announced that, until the implementation of a cease-fire at the battlefronts and the surrender of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Security Council plan, it will continue its crimes as before. This plan is nothing more than an effort to save the Zionist Iraqi regime.

What is interesting is that, under conditions in which the Saddamists have declared this aim and in which the intention and policy of the Iraqi regime in committing these indescribable crimes have been made clear, international circles have adopted the policy of turning a blind eye and doing nothing. The permanent members of the UN Security Council, too, are in the process of approving another resolution with regard to an arms embargo on the Islamic Republic of Iran. This is while all the permanent members of the Council are totally aware of the fact that Saddam's regime is the aggressor, that that regime uses chemical weapons, and that it attacks residential and nonmilitary areas. Some of them have formally and openly confessed to these facts themselves.

On the other hand, it is noteworthy that, contrary to the Iraqi regime's claim, the missiles launched against Tehran and Qom were originally manufactured in the Soviet Union. Just 11 day after the missiles hit Tehran, the ambassador of that country was summoned to our country's Foreign Ministry.

At any rate, it is very clear that the Iranian nation, in the course of the ups and downs of the defense of its sacred rights and ideals, is wholly attentive to the role of governments and to the level of their involvement in the implementation of the conspiracies that are drawn up against the Islamic Republic of Iran. None of these actions and developments escapes the sharp eyes of the Islamic ummah of Iran and of other countries. The implementation of world imperialism's policies, with a reliance on weapons manufactured in the Soviet Union, is a reality that our nation has repeatedly experienced in previous years as well.

The point is also this: All revolutions and independent movements that set the liberation of human beings as their aim and ideal, and which adopt their decisions and policies independent of the will of world powers must, in the course of their movement, have the necessary preparedness for experiencing conspiracies of various colors, with the participation of governments of various colors.

In any case, the UN Security Council, in line with the policies of London and Washington, and on the admission of David Mello, British minister of state for foreign affairs, who is himself a Zionist, is making efforts to approve the arms embargo resolution against the Islamic Republic of Iran. However, is it not the case that, according to international regulations, the identification and the naming of the aggressor and the designation of punishments proportionate to the crimes committed would be considered the humane and legal duty of a decision-making body? How is it that the permanent members of the Security Council, at the same time as they declare their adherence to international regulations and to peace-loving and humane principles, have so far concentrated all their efforts on the exoneration of the Iraqi regime and the covering up of that regime's crimes?

It is obviously clear that the pursuit of such a policy in the Security Council—bearing in mind the complete awareness on the part of that council's members of the fact that the Iraqi regime is the aggressor and that it has committed other crimes—arises principally from their joint aim: the maintenance of Saddam's regime and the blocking of the advancement and progress of the Islamic revolution. It is thus not without reason that the Security Council, in its first decision at the start of the Iraqi regime's aggression against the borders of the Islamic Republic of Iran, refrained from confronting the aggressor and stressed the importance of the implementation of a cease-fire. In later stages, too, after the revelation of the weakness and feebleness of the Saddamists in their confrontation with the forces of Islam, they proposed the plan for the withdrawal of the two sides to international borders.

Additionally, in continuation of this process and taking note of this line of thinking, at the present time the Council—by giving priority to the cease-fire over other issues, by understating the issue related to the identification and punishment of the aggressor, by taking steps toward the approval of the arms embargo plan against Iran; and by turning a blind eye to and adopting a policy of inaction in the face of the Saddamists' recent crimes—has, in fact, proved its adherence to a policy of support and backing for Saddam's regime.

At any rate, the Islamic Republic of Iran once again explicitly declares that the continuation and expansion of conspiracies, such as missile attacks on residential areas, an arms embargo, and the dispatch of a military force to the Persian Gulf will not bring about the slightest change in the firm resolve of the Islamic ummah for the realization of their rightful claims.

The combatants of Islam are determined to continue their just battle as before, until the attainment of final victory and the coming to fruition of the rightful claims of the Iranian nation.

Recent Kurdish Combat Operations Detailed

Peshmarga Kill 2 Iraqi Officers

LD031815 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian

11630/GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] According to Ramadan Headquarters, the IRGC center for the guidance of irregular warfare, peshmarga of the Patriotic Union of Iraqi Kurdistan in the course of

the past few days attacked a base and battalion station of the Zionist enemy in the Al-Sulaymaniyah region, killing or wounding more than 200 soldiers stationed there. Among the dead were two officers of the Iraqi army, one of whom was the commander of one of these bases and the other his deputy. In these operations, some light armor and other weapons and some communications equipment were taken intact as booty by the peshmergas.

The report further states: Some units of the commandos of the Zafar 75th Infantry Brigade of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, in cooperation with the struggling Kurdish peshmergas, Kirkuk branch, in the course of the past few days attacked the (71bn/Mansur) base and succeeded in destroying this base, killing or wounding more than 20 of the local mercenary forces.

100 Iraqi Casualties in Kirkuk

LD031818 Tehran/IRNA in English 1714 GMT
3 Mar 88

[Text] Bakhtaran, March 3, IRNA—The intelligence center and security organization of Samil located on the Iraq-Turkey highway in Kirkuk Province were destroyed over the past two days by commandos of the special Shahadat (martyrdom) Division in cooperation with peshmergas of Iraq's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP).

Ramadan Headquarters, announcing the above said the commandos had the Iraq-Turkey international highway under control for six hours, killing or wounding over 100 Ba'athist agents of two security bases nearby.

Several foreign and Iraqi goods trucks in transit at Samil were set afire during the successful operations, said the hqs.

Peshmergas Cause Kirkuk Black-Out

LD031822 Tehran/IRNA in English 1719 GMT
3 Mar 88

[Text] Bakhtaran, March 3, IRNA—Some high-voltage electric pylons were destroyed on the Tuz Khurmatu-Kirkuk road, northern Iraq, by commandos of Zafar Brigade 75 in league with Iraqi peshmergas of the Kirkuk branch over the past few days. Ramadan Headquarters, announcing the above said there was a black-out in parts of Kirkuk Province as a result of the destruction of the pylons.

Communique No 3/130 Notes Search Operations

LD031626 Tehran/IRNA in English 1605 GMT
3 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 3, IRNA—Iran's naval gunboats intercepted and searched five oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Wednesday but allowed them to continue voyage after making certain they were not carrying cargo for Iraq, said a military communique here Thursday.

The 3130th Joint Staff Communique added that the Islamic Republic Air Force effectively carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman yesterday in support of the Navy in accordance with all international regulations.

Exchange of artillery fire continued throughout the battlefields Wednesday raging somewhat more heavily in Sumar, Shalamchah and Kuthk, western and southern sectors, where a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and four enemy munitions dumps and several gun emplacements destroyed.

Iranian forces shelled a group of Iraqi soldiers around Mehran, western fronts, Wednesday, inflicting several casualties and forcing them to flee.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy bunkers set ablaze in parts of the southern and western fronts in artillery duels with Iranian gendarmic forces yesterday.

Heavy fire of Iran's Muslim combatants checked Iraqi engineering operations in Helaleh, Nahr Anbar and Eyk-hosh and movement of enemy motorized columns in Tay-yebabad and Sharhami Wednesday, concluded the communique.

Roundtable Discussion on Hajj, 'War of Cities'

NC031915 Tehran Television Service in Persian
1710 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Political round-table discussion attended by Seyyed Mohammad Khatami, minister of Islamic Guidance; Ali Reza Mo'ayyeri, deputy prime minister for political affairs; and Mohammad Hoseyn Reza'i, head of Hajj affairs, moderated by Afshar, newscaster from the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran on 3 March—recorded]

[Text] [Afshar] Mr Khatami, last week Islamic Republic officials protested to officials of the Hijaz [Saudi Arabia] regime concerning their statement that they would prevent Iranians from attending the hajj this year and the fact that they even prevented some of our country's hajj officials from visiting Hijaz. Following these protests, we recently saw a shift in their position and noted that they said they will accept the representatives of pilgrims from all countries and will not prevent pilgrims from any country from performing their hajj duties. Speaking plainly, how does the Islamic Republic of Iran view the Hijaz regime's changed position?

[Khatami] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. To answer your question, we should accept the fact that the difference between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Al-Sa'ud regime has to do with the difference between two Islams—an American-style Islam and an Islam that belongs to monotheists and to venerable people. It is a matter of accepting monotheism and uprightness, of struggle, and, first and foremost, of disavowal of the enemies of God and humanity. This is something that emerges in the

[hajj] pilgrimage. The type of hajj which the Islamic Revolution wants today is the Abrahamic hajj. The revival of this type of hajj, which has a precedence in history too, was achieved with the victory of the Islamic Revolution. The nature of the Al-Sat'ud regime does not conform with this type of hajj because it is the enforcer of imperialistic and U.S. policies in the region.

Therefore, one cannot conceive that the Al-Sat'ud regime will actually agree to a divine and Abrahamic hajj. Of course, it does not have the courage to say: I will not allow people who do not agree with my policy to perform the hajj. Also, it cannot overtly state that the policies that should govern the hajj should be U.S. policies. This is contrary to the (deceitful) role that it has in the world of Islam. However, the fact is that it wants to indeed prevent Iranian pilgrims and respectable pilgrims from going on pilgrimage after the horrific crime that it committed. Thus, it is actually creating obstacles.

We can say that it is preventing Iranians from performing their hajj without actually saying so. It is also trying to distance the Al-Sat'ud regime from the move to prevent the Iranian pilgrims from going on the hajj. Recently, it seems that it wants to turn the matter over to the ECO foreign ministers who are to meet in Amman early next [Iranian] year [beginning on 21 March 1988] and to find an accommodation. However, this conference does not attach any importance to expressing views on how this pilgrimage should be conducted and who can attend or not attend.

This is not a diplomatic or political issue at all, particularly as most of the foreign ministers represent anti-Islamic regimes and are puppets of arrogant powers. How can they pass judgment on the hajj? It is the venerable ulama of Islam who should judge how the hajj should be conducted and who can attend. Naturally, views expressed by the ulama who are related to regimes such as the Saudi regime will not apply. They are paid to say what those anti-Islamic regimes want said. Many of the ulama of Islam have already expressed their views—during the conference on the Sanctity of the Holy Shrines in Tehran, during the conference in London, and in regional seminars held in India, Pakistan, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, the Philippines, and many other places.

Statements issued by the ulama and the intellectuals of the world all condemn the Al-Sat'ud regime, demand freedom for Muslims to carry out their duties, and stress that the hajj belongs to all Muslims and that Mecca and the Medina belong to all Muslims.

To sum up, the Al-Sat'ud regime is, by obstructing our trip [to Saudi Arabia] to prepare for our pilgrims' voyage, trying to prevent our pilgrims' voyage, even though it is not saying that it is doing so.

[Afshar] Mr Khatami, this year's pilgrimage is 4 months away and naturally, preliminary steps should be taken and preparations made so that the Iranian pilgrims can visit the holy shrines. Because the Hijaz regime has not yet issued visas to our officials so that they can take these preliminary steps, do you think that this delay will create problems for this year's hajj?

[Khatami] We should start preparations months before the hajj in order to be able to take our 150,000 or so pilgrims. If these steps are not taken, it means that the pilgrims cannot go. This will be explained further by my brother, Reza'i, who will explain what happened last year and every other year.

In short, I would like to say that if the Saudi regime does not specify now when we can go, it will have prevented the hajj. I state here that from today—the 13th of Esfand [3 March]—through the next 10 days, if the Al-Sat'ud regime does not agree to our delegation's visit to make arrangements for renting houses and for our pilgrims' voyage, this will mean that the Al-Sat'ud regime has prevented the Iranian pilgrims from going to Mecca. They will have deviated totally from God's course and be held heavily responsible by the world's Islamic masses. Our Foreign Ministry will issue this ultimatum very soon and will give them 10 days. After 10 days—although we will still have been delayed—if once again the Al-Sat'ud regime continues its obstructionism, it will in effect have prevented the pilgrims' hajj.

[Afshar] Mr Reza'i, as Mr Khatami stated, can you tell us what preliminary steps the Iranian officials had taken each year by this time?

[Reza'i] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. During the past 4 years that I have been serving in the hajj affairs, a delegation usually went to Saudi Arabia in Jamadi al-Thani [the sixth month of the Islamic calendar] where they held discussions with Saudi officials. This delegation was in charge of making the preliminary arrangements. On the 1st of Rajab [the seventh month of the Islamic calendar] usually people in charge of renting houses—the directors of our pilgrimage convoys—were already in Saudi Arabia and already renting houses. During this period, and according to my telephone conversations and contacts with my brothers there, almost 40 percent of the houses were already rented.

The visas for the directors of our convoys were usually issued in Jamadi al-Thani, and the visa for the delegation was usually issued on the 1st of Jamadi al-Thani. During the first 10 days of Jamadi al-Thani we were there holding talks with Saudi officials. During the past 4 years when I was there, usually delegations from other countries also came in Jamadi al-Thani. In past years, the Saudi hajj minister himself insisted that these preliminary steps be taken as soon as possible. As someone who attended discussions with them [Saudi officials] for 4 years, I decisively state that this delay is meant to obstruct and to create problems for the hajj.

[Afshar] Mr Motayyeri, it has been about 8 months since bloody Friday in holy Mecca. During this period, various analyses have been made of this criminal act by the Hijaz rulers. In the beginning, one of the analyses noted that the Hijaz regime was not expected to do something like this because it had repeatedly stated it had not sided with Iraq in the imposed war and because during OPEC conferences its position was almost similar to that of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The analysis noted that Kuwait was expected to commit such a crime, but that no one expected the Hijaz

regime to do something like this. Now that almost 8 months have passed since that incident, some issues have been almost entirely clarified and a better and more profound assessment can be made. What is your excellency's present assessment?

[Most'yeri] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. During the 8 months since the bloody incident in Mecca in which our dear and venerable pilgrims were martyred, this incident was at first described as something unexpected. However, under the present circumstances and some time after this incident, we witnessed the extensive military presence of the United States and its allies in the Persian Gulf. We saw the international pressures exerted through the UN Security Council and Resolution No 598 on the Islamic Republic of Iran. We also saw the various overtures in the region that spoke of a general pressure on the Islamic Republic to give up its justice-seeking position. As the Imam stated in his speeches, the incident in holy Mecca was not an incident thought up by the Hijaz regime or one that they were capable of creating. This incident was directed by the United States and by some other powers. Actually, it can be said that all these incidents fall within the plan to apply pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran. In retrospect, we can see that all these were actually pre-determined and calculated acts against the Islamic Republic of Iran and its justice-seeking policies.

[Alshar] Thank you, Mr Rezai'e, every year—as far as I know—we see how Saudi Arabia announces, at about this time of the year, that the number of Iranian pilgrims should be less than the number Iranian officials want to send. Has this been brought up this year, and if Saudi Arabia makes this statement and insists on a certain number of pilgrims, what position will the Islamic Republic take?

[Rezai'e] Actually, this is nothing new. For the past couple of years, Saudi Arabia stated its intention to change the number of pilgrims. However, this is a political game concerning the Iranian pilgrims and intended only to decrease the number of Iranians. This topic has been brought up during the past couple of years and we have said that all 150,000 pilgrims should go. This situation further shows Saudi Arabia's inefficiency, as the hajj is Muslims' compulsory duty. Saudi Arabia is unable to extend the services that the people and pilgrims need in Mecca and Medina. At any rate, this was one of the issues during the past couple of years. However, all 150,000 pilgrims went on the pilgrimage, and again this year we have planned our programs on the basis of 150,000 pilgrims. The preliminary steps have, thank God, been taken even under the present circumstances. Our pilgrims are having their medical check-ups and, with God's help, all of them will, God willing, go on the pilgrimage.

[Khatami] Meanwhile, I would like to add that these are simply excuses aimed at obstructing the Iranian pilgrims' hajj. The Al-Sa'ud regime's policy is one that wastes time so that if it one day announces that we can perform the pilgrimage, we will not be able to do so. As far as the issue of reducing the number of pilgrims is concerned, they started a rumor that the number of all pilgrims this year should be smaller. Their excuse is that they are repairing the holy shrines and are reconstructing the houses where the

pilgrims stay. If this is true, then it is a sign of the Al-Sa'ud regime's unworthiness in managing the holy shrines because the number of pilgrims increases day by day and each year the Saudis must increase the quota. If they make this excuse, and it is an excuse, it is because they want to have some way of reducing the number of Iranian pilgrims.

I want to state here and now that if the Saudi regime succeeds on the basis of its futile political considerations in preventing the true hajj pilgrimage that Iranian and other pilgrims want to perform and succeeds in preventing the Iranian pilgrims from performing their hajj duties this year, in the future it will prevent all its political opponents from attending the hajj. Preventing its ideological and political opponents from attending the hajj could lead to the Saudi regime's becoming a doormat for anti-Islamic and U.S. policies. This is a serious danger threatening the entire world of Islam.

[Alshar] Thank you very much, Mr Khatami. In view of the importance that the breaching of the sanctity of the holy shrine had, the need for propaganda about this increased. Earlier in your remarks, you referred to the Congress on the Sanctity of the Holy Shrines, as well as to a similar congress held in London and in other places. Do you think that this amount of propaganda is sufficient or is more propaganda necessary?

[Khatami] Propaganda is necessary, of course. It has been carried out and should be carried out. However, propaganda's basic objective is the awareness of the Muslims. Fortunately, we have seen this awareness at its zenith among the Muslims. Reports from pilgrims of other countries, who returned to their own countries after the hajj, were the greatest propaganda. The Islamic Republic of Iran was the victim in this crime. Even though people from other countries—Palestinians, Pakistanis, and others—were also among those martyred by the Saudi elements in the holy shrine of God, the crime was mostly aimed at the combatant and respectable Iranian men and women.

Naturally, more propaganda was necessary, and it was carried out, because the Islamic Republic of Iran was the proclaimer of this Abrahamic hajj. The gist of the matter was that we had to clarify in the minds of the Muslims the dimensions of the crime, the fact that the attack and the killing of the people were premeditated, the real reasons behind this incident, the objectives of the Al-Sa'ud regime, the truth of what happened there, and the duty of the Muslims.

Films were prepared, books and pamphlets were published, seminars were held, and seminars organized by other Muslims were attended. All these are examples of what was done. Of course, we are doing other things in other areas now. We have films, books, and other documents. However, the important issue is that all these were aimed at making the world of Islam realize the crime that was committed and how villainously Mecca and Medina were violated and their sanctity breached.

Naturally, when the Muslims realize what their duties are, they will know what to do. I believe that whatever we do, the feelings of the people have inevitably been hurt and the

venerable people who have rendered America and the Zionist regime helpless will definitely avenge those who committed this crime. This is an issue which goes beyond the framework of the duties of the Islamic Republic and even outside the limits of the Islamic Republic's powers.

[Afshar] Thank you. If you agree, let us end our discussion of the hijj issue here and talk about the events of the past week, in other words, Iraq's attacks on our residential areas, which have been widely reported by the world's mass media and have become the main topic in the world news.

Mr Motayyeri, as you know, this is the umpteenth time that the warmongering Iraqi regime has started the so-called war of cities. In the past, when the Iraqi regime stopped its attacks on the Islamic Republic's cities, it was not because it ran out of weapons or because of any problems. It was because it realized that the attack on cities led to more extensive dispatches [to the battlefield] and to a greater rush by the Basij forces to the battlefield in order to avenge the blood of the martyrs shed in the war of cities. This is something which the Iraqi officials themselves admitted openly. My question is: How is it that they have now changed their opinion and have resumed the attack on the cities?

[Motayyeri] As you pointed out, it was about a year ago that this war of the cities began and now it has resumed. This time the aggressive Iraqi regime started the war by attacking civilian and residential areas. Why did it not use these missiles last year against far-reaching points in Iran, like Tehran? Did it have these missiles then and not use them, or did it not have these missiles? On the basis of our information, it did not have these missiles, because if it had, then it would have used them.

The Iraqi regime lacks self-control and one of its characteristics is that it uses any weapon it has against our holy system. That the war of cities has started now under different circumstances stems from the fact that on the one hand, it has received newer weapons, and on the other hand, that a special situation prevails now.

Now, as all our dear compatriots know, the preliminary steps are being taken at the United Nations to adopt a resolution for an embargo on the Islamic Republic. According to the Iraqi regime and to its allies, the war of the cities is a psychological element and a way of pressuring the Islamic Republic of Iran to accept this resolution, all the articles of which we do not accept. It thinks that if it continues this pressure, the Islamic Republic will accept this resolution.

However, as in the past, the war of cities has not only failed to make us give up our positions, but it has made us more determined that a military solution is the only alternative in confronting a regime with such (criminal) characteristics. Another thing is that in my opinion, the war of cities came about at this point in time because our fighters will conduct operations on the fronts in the near future, God willing. This war of the cities may have been imposed on us under present circumstances in order to either accelerate these operations

or to delay them beyond the suitable time. However, this will not in any way affect the attacks, and at the suitable time, God willing, important and destiny-making operations will take place.

[Afshar] Mr Khatami, this time the war of cities has coincided with a series of issues, such as diplomatic trips to the region, and to what Mr Motayyeri pointed out—an arms embargo that is being extensively discussed in the Security Council recently—and the solution for the Afghanistan problem. These are happening all at the same time. In your opinion, are these coincidences related?

[Khatami] The war against the Islamic Republic and its continuation by the warmongering Iraqi regime was definitely an international plot. This war actually showed how futile it is for someone to depend on decisions adopted by international forums and world policies. A solution to this war could have been found. If all the forces who tacitly or explicitly said in their statements that Saddam's regime started this war did so officially, and stated in their resolutions that the aggressor is Saddam's regime and the aggressor should be tried, then the war would have ended. The fact that this is not happening is not accidental. It is a plot to inflict blows on the Islamic Republic's system which has threatened the interests of Eastern and Western arrogance.

Naturally, the war of the cities cannot also be separate from these international overtures. The warmongering regime wants, through this war of the cities, to actually put the war issue on display and the fact that Iran should be pressured to end this war. In addition, Saddam's mentors, by this act, want to actually apply pressure on the Islamic Republic even though they know how useless their past efforts have been.

Another point, and something which I think has been forgotten or has not received enough attention, is the issue of the Islamic revolution in Palestine. The Islamic revolution in Palestine created a new wave in the world of Islam and opened a new chapter in our Islamic revolution. It brought the struggle against the Zionist regime—which has been plunged into an impasse because of the compromising policies by those who claim the leadership of Palestine—out of this impasse, and Islam once again has shown its strength. Even regional reaction and the leaders of Islamic nations felt the pressure; they could no longer stay silent on this wave.

I believe it is highly probable that Saddam's regime started this war with the coordination of big countries and regional reaction in order to overshadow the Palestinian revolution with the war of the cities, even if only for a few days. Today you saw how in the international news reports, because of the sensitivity of the issue, the issue of the war of the cities and the Iraqi missile attacks have been highlighted. In the last few days the Islamic revolution of Palestine is receiving less attention and, the pressures on the reactionary Arab and Islamic regimes by the Muslim nations have decreased. On the whole, all these present a clear picture. However, what is a determining factor both in this war and (in all confrontation) is the emergence of a new strength—the Islamic strength. Our Muslim nation has shown, with its resistance, that it can overcome these plots and that again the war of the cities will only result in our nation's determination for

further resistance, for further presence on the scenes, for overthrowing Saddam's regime, for punishing the aggressor, and for foiling the plans engineered by the masters of Saddam's regime. As the imam has pointed out, our nation embodies resistance, it seeks martyrdom, and it does not fear missiles, death, and martyrdom. Our nation will never forget those who have paved the way for this and those who have given Saddam these missiles and a free hand to commit the crimes of killing our women, men, and children.

[Mo'ayyeri] I would like to add to Dr Khatami's remarks, and to point out something. Two weeks ago, a high-ranking U.S. delegation was in Iraq holding extensive talks with Iraqi officials. News agencies reported that the Americans were extremely worried about the Iraqi Air Forces' operations in the Persian Gulf. In other words, there were cases in which the U.S. fleet in the Persian Gulf was threatened because of the inexperience of the Iraqi pilots. According to our information, this delegation carried out discussions with the Iraqi regime in order to prevent an unwanted confrontation with Iraqi planes in the Persian Gulf. For this reason, it was advised that their active presence in the Persian Gulf area be reduced and that it should concentrate on the war of the cities. Another issue is the presence of the British deputy foreign secretary in Iraq and his extensive talks with Iraqi officials. As stated by Mr Khatami, this shows that there was a coordinated alliance to inflict general pressure on the Islamic Republic.

[Afshar] Mr Mo'ayyeri, concerning the proposed arms embargo on Iran, news reports show that the Soviet Union is allegedly preventing this arms embargo. This is one side of the issue. The other side of the issue is—as your excellency pointed out—that these missiles Iraq is now firing at Iran did not exist before and were recently acquired. It has been said that these missiles are Soviet-made. How do you assess this contradiction and duplicity in Soviet policy?

[Mo'ayyeri] None of the superpowers want the Islamic Republic of Iran to win this war. Moreover, they have said this in many of their statements or in their official talks. They see this victory as a detriment to the entire region. On the other hand, there has, unfortunately, never been a fair hearing of the Islamic Republic's justice-seeking positions. The Islamic Republic has a very clear policy, and this policy says that in order to bring peace to the region forever, the aggressor should be recognized and punished. If this is not done, then this strategically important area of the world will never be peaceful. Unfortunately, because of a so-called collusion between these two superpowers, they are unwilling to implement the just demand of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Of course, we have had talks with the Soviets, both as far as bilateral relations and the UN resolution are concerned, and in some cases progress was achieved.

However, what is definite is that we have a long border with the Soviet Union. We are neighboring countries and history has placed us next to each other. What appears to be logical is that these two neighbors should have good and normal relations. What is definite is that if it is proved that the missiles were definitely placed at Iraq's disposal by the Soviets, naturally this will affect our relations. As stated by

our dear imam, our people will never forget how such assistance was extended to our enemy in the region at such a sensitive and important juncture.

[Afshar] Mr Mo'ayyeri, after Iraq started the missile attack on Tehran and it was said that these missiles were Russian, Mr Gudov, Soviet ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran, was summoned to the Foreign Ministry. Documents were presented on the fact that these missiles were Russian and Mr Gudov was asked for an explanation. What was Mr Gudov's answer?

[Mo'ayyeri] As far as I know, it was agreed that he would transfer the documents to Moscow and would answer the Foreign Ministry as soon as possible.

[Afshar] A definitive answer...

[Mo'ayyeri, interrupting] A specific answer has not yet been given.

[Afshar] As far as the arms embargo is concerned, this started some time ago and went through certain phases. What is its current status?

[Mo'ayyeri] The latest report is that a draft has been prepared by the five permanent members of the Security Council which states that a 2-year arms embargo will be imposed on that country because it does not accept Resolution No 598. There are other points in this draft too. A timetable is expected to be defined, under which if Resolution 598 is not accepted by a given time, then the embargo plan will be implemented from that time on. What is important for us is that the embargo will not affect our sacred defense because we will be unable to insure the weapons we need. This is because, as most of our military officials have reported to our martyr-nurturing people, we are, thank God, manufacturing most of this war materiel domestically, and we are purchasing a small quantity in the free market. What is important is that if this embargo is imposed on the Islamic Republic by the United Nations, it will complicate matters with the United Nations and will greatly decrease our trust in the United Nations. It will only make us more determined not to attach any hopes to these international forums, as Mr Khatami pointed out, and to achieve our right ourselves. This will be to the detriment of the international forums and not to the detriment of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[Afshar] Mr Khatami, after Iraq's missile attack on Tehran, we heard on the news that the UN secretary general has asked the Security Council president to call for a meeting on the war of cities. How do you assess this movement by Mr Perez de Cuellar?

[Khatami] The least someone can expect from these forums is to truly react in relation to human conscience and to this crime against humanity. Of course, the secretary general has in many cases wanted to act with goodwill. However, because of the fact that unfortunately the policies of the big powers rule the world and international forums, usually if someone has humanitarian feelings and intentions he does not achieve a great deal. This [call to the Security Council]

president] probably stems from the secretary general's goodwill. At any rate, the United Nations should give a sign that it actually does exist and should state that a war of the cities has taken place and a reaction should be shown. However, I am not very hopeful that the problem can be solved by such things. Truly the crimes perpetrated by Saddam are much more than this. This is only one of the crimes he has perpetrated. The least that the United Nations and the Security Council can do in order to get the people to adopt an optimistic attitude is to declare that the Saddam regime is the aggressor. Of course, the killing of innocent men and women, missile attacks on hospitals, the attack on schools, and the bombing of cities, and chemical bombing are all the best proof that the perpetrator is an inhuman and aggressive element and should be condemned. However, at the same time, I am not very hopeful that a serious step will be taken by the United Nations and the Security Council as far as this crime and other crimes by Saddam are concerned, although we hope and expect them to do so.

One more point that was forgotten regarding the reason for the commencement of the war of the cities is the great weakness of the Iraqi regime. Every day the situation on the fronts is shifting to the benefit of our combatant forces and to the detriment of his helpless forces. Neither he nor his associates have any future hopes and these ugly acts are futile efforts stemming from weakness.

[Afshar] If you allow me, I will ask you a last question and then if any one of you has anything to say, please do so. As stated in the news, the Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly announced that it will not attack Iraq's four safe cities. However, we saw yesterday how the Iraqis attacked the holy city of Qom. On the basis of news that has reached us, Saddam has gone to Al-Kazimiyah, which is one of the four safe cities. As I have heard, Mr Khatami, in Islam an infidel deserving to be fought who uses Muslims as his shield and attempts an attack on Muslims can be attacked, and the Muslims who are killed in such an attack are considered martyrs. In view of what I have said, do you think that it is correct for us to give Saddam the opportunity to use the four safe cities to continue his regime?

[Khatami] Basically we did not and do not agree with the war of the cities. For years we have resisted. However, when it was seen that Saddam's regime has turned the attack on cities into a means to inflict blows on the Islamic Republic of Iran and it used the Muslims as a shield—that is, to use the security that the Iraqi Muslims enjoyed in Iran's attacks—in order to continue its crimes, it was because of this that we retaliated. Islam says that when an infidel uses another Muslim as a shield, then it does not matter if the Muslim who is used as a shield is killed in order to destroy the enemy. But the holy cities—Karbala, Al-Najaf, Al-Kazimiyah, Qom, and Mashhad—are no longer a ceremonial issue. They are the crystallization of the Islamic thoughts of an ummah. They are the crystallization of the religious conscience of an ummah. Attacking these cities and these holy shrines is tantamount to attacking the thoughts of all the Muslims, attacking the roots of the Islamic identity of an ummah. One should be in an extremely sensitive situation in order to do something like this; the Islamic Republic will never do so because of its respect for the Islamic ummah. The Iraqi regime, whose attack on the cities is a crime, and

goes beyond that by attacking Qom, precisely displays its rebellion against the very Islamic basis of our ummah, not only against the people who are fighting against him. This in itself is further proof of the criminal and anti-Islamic nature of this regime. We respect Islam, the Islamic principles, and fact that the holy cities and shrines are manifestations of Islam. We will maintain this respect and we announce now that these four cities are safe cities; those who go there will be safe from the Islamic Republic's missile attacks.

[Afshar] I thank you very much. If any of the brothers thinks that there is something that has been left unsaid on the war of the cities or on the hajj, please do so.

[Mo'ayyeri] I would like to recall something here, which is the resistance by our dear people. Throughout the 7 years since the war, we have been through various and special circumstances. What has made us resistant and has allowed us to maintain our principled stand has been the spirit of resistance of the people. This phase too will be through, if our people continue their resistance and selflessness and, God willing, divine victory is near.

[Reza'i] I would like to say something about the hajj. During the few years that I have been in the hajj affairs, and during discussions with various delegations at the hajj in Saudi Arabia, they wanted us to give them information about our experiences in the hajj affairs. Even the hajj deputy minister [of Saudi Arabia] said that Iran's hajj program was very orderly and good. The same applied to the owners of the houses [rented to pilgrims]. The discussions that we had there and our programs were a stimulus for our acts, and there was always interest in learning from our experiences. All of this stemmed from the fact that we planned ahead of time. However, this year, we sent the first letter to the Saudi Embassy on 20 January. One month later, on 18 February, they gave us an answer, and now they have recently stated that they will specify the time. This shows that they want to create a series of problems. However, through the efforts made by all the Islamic Republic's officials and the officials in charge of the hajj, and in view of the fact that the Saudi Government cannot prevent the hajj and therefore it should give a positive reply to enable us to prepare our hajj programs—and we too, are preparing ourselves—God willing, we will be able to perform a good hajj, like every year, with all our pilgrims.

[Khatami] I too would like to state in conclusion that as you know, the disavowal of pagans is a clear directive of the Koran, a tradition of the prophet of God and of the immaculate imams and a definite thing in the hajj. It is also a necessity in monotheism. The Islamic Republic, as a republic based on Islam, wants the hajj to be performed as stated by God and his messenger. Throughout the years, the Islamic Republic has performed the hajj in this way, even though this has not been favored by the United States and the Al Sa'ud regime. But this year, the disavowal of pagans will be and should be something different; this is because of the emergence and culmination of the Islamic revolution in Palestine. Today the children of the Muslim Palestinian nation are standing up in front of the Zionist regime with their shouts of "God is great." It is the hajj that should convey their call to the world. We feel that because of the Islamic revolution of Palestine, the Al Sa'ud regime feels

threatened more than before. It wants to prevent the demonstrations of disavowal during the pilgrimage, and this is because the Al Sa'ud regime emerged simultaneously with the regime occupying Palestine. One was created to occupy Palestine and the other to occupy Mecca and Medina—both in order to crush true Islam. One of fears of the Al Sa'ud regime is that the demonstrations will be held this year, the Islamic revolution of Palestine will be brought up, and that the arrogance which has been invested in for years, and which was being implemented by the Al Sa'ud regime, will be destroyed. However, with God's help, the cry of the oppressed Muslim Palestinian nation will be heard in Mecca and Medina this year.

[Afshar] God willing. I thank you all for attending the political round-table discussion. Dear viewers, we end this week's political round-table discussion. With hopes for the final and rapid victory of the powerful combatants of Islam and with hopes that this year we will have a fruitful Abrahamic hajj. I bid goodnight to our dear viewers, together with our brothers Messrs Khatami, Mo'ayyeri, and Reza'i'e. Good night.

Extensive Military Research in Progress
NC031338 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Excerpt] In order to combat the arms embargo by the superpowers, 1,000 military research projects were studied in universities and research institutes this year, a large number of which have been concluded and placed at the disposal of the country's military (?institutes).

Dr Farhadi, our minister for culture and higher education who is on a visit to Gorgan's research and training units, said in an exclusive interview with the Central News Unit correspondent in Gorgan: As a result of the dazzling efforts of our dedicated Muslim researchers and experts in the past year, remarkable successes have been achieved in military projects. In addition, some extremely important and strategic research projects are now in the process of being assessed and studied. The completion of these projects will be another slap in the face of the superpowers. [passage omitted]

Malaysian Finance Minister's Visit Continues

Meets With Ja'fari

LD031606 Tehran IRNA in English 1532 GMT
3 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 3, IRNA—Visiting Malaysian Finance Minister Daim Bin Zainuddin met with Commerce Minister Hasan Abedi Ja'fari here Thursday noon and discussed with him ways of promoting mutual commercial ties.

In the meeting, Zainuddin expressed hope that Tehran-Kuala Lumpur commercial ties would further expand and said that promotion of ties with third world countries topped Malaysia's economic plans.

Ja'fari said in reply that establishment of a joint banking system between the two countries, which has not existed so far, as well as signing of a letter of understanding would help boost the volume of bilateral trade exchanges.

Malaysian exports to Iran include mainly caoutchouc, several kinds of wood, cacao grains, spice, electric appliances, fertilizers, fat acids and palm oil for industrial purposes.

In a separate meeting here this afternoon, the Malaysian finance minister held talks with director of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic Majid Qasemi on issues of mutual interest.

Among other topics discussed at the meeting were ways of removing present obstacles in the way of mutual banking relations.

The Malaysian finance minister, heading an economic delegation, arrived here Tuesday night.

Holds Talks With Musavi

LD032220 Tehran IRNA in English 1915 GMT
3 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 3, IRNA—Visiting Malaysian Finance Minister Daim Zainuddin and his entourage met with Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi Here Thursday.

In the meeting, also attended by Iranian Economic and Financial Affairs Minister Mohammad Javad Iravani and the ambassadors of the two countries, Zainuddin said the fact that Iran has no foreign debts despite being embroiled in a long war has caught him by surprise.

The Malaysian minister welcomed the Islamic Republic's policy on expanding its ties with Muslim countries and wished for further promotion of Tehran-Kuala Lumpur relations.

Premier Musavi, referring to the obstacles created by colonial powers in the way of promotion of commercial ties among Muslim states, called on Islamic countries to stand against the ambitious and bullying policies of the big powers by exchanging data with each other and revamping their commercial systems.

On the crucial situation in the Middle East, the premier told Malaysian officials that they were witnessing criminal Iraqi attacks on Iranian cities simultaneously with efforts by big powers to impose an unjust peace on Islamic Iran.

But, the premier noted, Iran's Muslim people are determined to continue their resistance and fight on this troubled point of the world in order to defend their independence and Islamic identity and to convince the world that the Iraqi-imposed war will not come to an end without suppression of the aggressor party.

Meets With Iravani

LD032229 Tehran IRNA in English 1922 GMT
3 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 3, IRNA—Expansion of economic and trade relations between the two Muslim countries of Iran and Malaysia was stressed at a meeting between visiting Malaysian Minister of Finance Daim Zainuddin and his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Javad Iravani, here Thursday.

The Malaysian official announced his country's keen interest to promote Tehran-Kuala Lumpur cooperation in various economic and trade areas, calling for expansion of economic relations among Islamic countries.

Zainuddin expressed hope that agreements would be concluded on bilateral trade issues through formation of commissions on Tehran-Kuala Lumpur economic relations.

In response, the Iranian minister of economic and financial affairs pointing to the Iran-Malaysia friendly ties explained the Islamic Republic's policy of expansion of its ties with Third World and non-aligned countries which he said would reduce Iran's dependence on arrogant countries.

The Islamic Republic is taking firm steps towards laying foundation for Iran's economic system despite plots hatched by global arrogance led by the U.S., Iravani said.

Iravani referring to various plots hatched by global arrogance, especially imposition of war on Iran by the Baghdad regime, declared Islamic Iran is the paramount regional power both from the political and economic point of view. He told the Malaysian official that expansion of economic relations is impossible without taking joint political stance into consideration.

"We know following the decrease of oil prices in 1986, your country though not a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) advocated OPEC's policies and decreased its own oil production," he recalled. This is one of the cases of cooperation between Iran and Malaysia in international scenes, he added.

Two years ago, he noted, Iran's imports from Malaysia were around dlr. 3 million, but Malaysia did not import any non-oil goods from Iran. The last time Malaysia had imported non-oil goods from Iran, a year before the victory of the Islamic revolution, when it bought dlr. 46,000 worth of carpets and mineral water.

"While in the same year, Iran had imported dlr. 1.53 m worth of goods including wool, natural caoutchout [rubber] and books from Malaysia, according to statistics of Iran's Central Bank," he added.

Iravani continued that Islamic Iran has imported some dlr. 8.5 million worth of goods from Malaysia over the past nine months of the current Iranian year (to end March 20), calling for direct transactions of trade exchanges.

Iravani said Iran and Malaysia can also cooperate in the agricultural sector and use each other's experiences.

The Islamic Republic of Iran calls for further expansion of relations with Malaysia on the basis of mutual interests, he said concluding that the two countries can study formation of a joint economic commission in a bid to promote two-way ties.

Sri Lanka

IPKF Bans Gatherings in Eastern Province

BK040540 Hong Kong AFP in English 0523 GMT
4 Mar 88

[Text] Colombo, March 4 (AFP)—Indian troops Friday imposed a ban on the assembly of more than five people in eastern Sri Lanka to scuttle a rebel demonstration, residents said.

Soldiers were going around Batticaloa town announcing the orders over loud hailer, residents contacted by telephone said.

"The troops have warned that those violating the orders would be shot," said one resident in the Tamil-dominated town some 300 kilometres (190 miles) east of here.

There was no official word on the ban, but residents said it was aimed at preventing a planned demonstration by Tamil guerrillas.

The left-wing Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS) had said its cadres would march through the streets of Batticaloa Friday to press its demands of citizenship rights for Tamils of Indian origin and the release of all political prisoners in Sri Lanka.

The EROS, which has been accused of several lethal bomb attacks in Colombo, was an ally of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) during the campaign for a Tamil homeland.

But unlike the LTTE, it has accepted the July Indo-Sri Lanka peace pact seeking to end the separatist campaign.

Batticaloa residents said the town, with a population of nearly 50,000, had been plastered with EROS posters calling on the people to join the protest.

Some 50,000 Indian troops have been deployed in the island's north and east to implement the accord.

Nearly 390 Indian soldiers and more than 1,300 suspected LTTE fighters have died and Sri Lanka's north and east have been under night curfew since October, when India launched a military operation to disarm the LTTE.

NOTES
